The National
Future Farmer
February - March, 1988

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How to get more Yamaha Ter

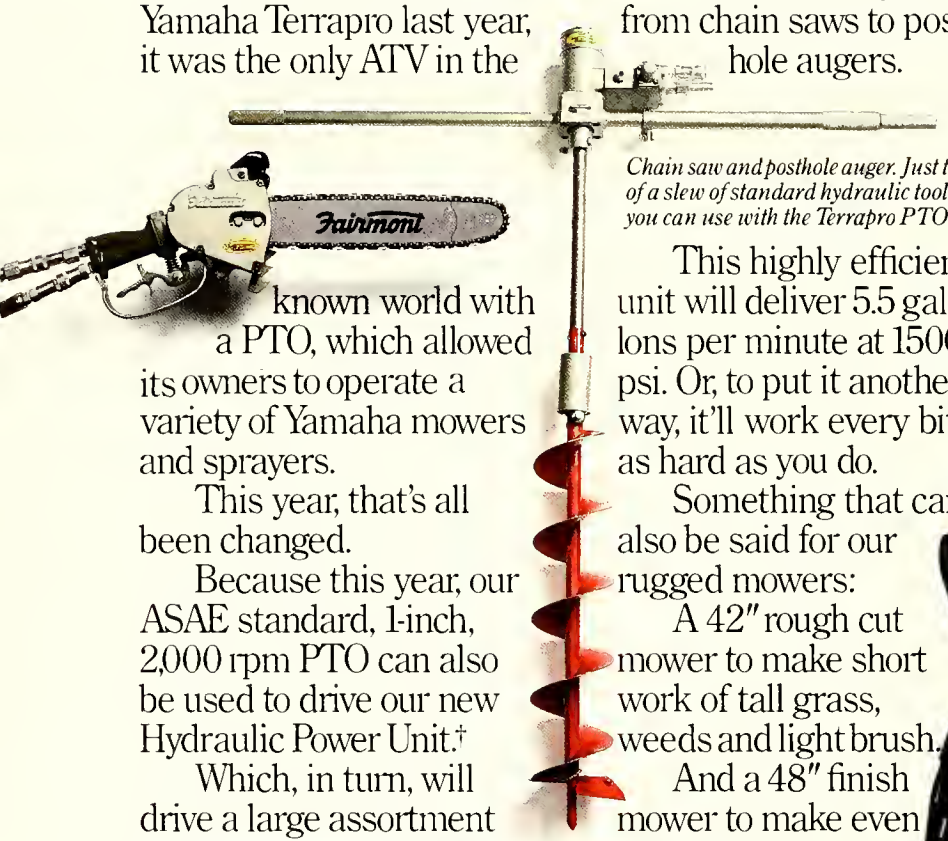
Add

When we introduced the Yamaha Terrapro last year, it was the only ATV in the known world with a PTO, which allowed its owners to operate a variety of Yamaha mowers and sprayers.

This year, that's all been changed.

Because this year, our ASAE standard, 1-inch, 2,000 rpm PTO can also be used to drive our new Hydraulic Power Unit.†

Which, in turn, will drive a large assortment of hydraulic tools, many of which you may already have on hand. Everything from chain saws to post-hole augers.



*Chain saw and posthole auger. Just two of a slew of standard hydraulic tools you can use with the Terrapro PTO.***

This highly efficient unit will deliver 5.5 gallons per minute at 1500 psi. Or, to put it another way, it'll work every bit as hard as you do.

Something that can also be said for our rugged mowers:

A 42″ rough cut mower to make short work of tall grass, weeds and light brush.

And a 48″ finish mower to make even shorter work of the farmhouse lawn.

For fertilizers, herbicides* and a host of other industrial-type liquids,

Our Yamaha boom sprayers are modular so you can use whatever configuration you figure you'll need.

***Warning:** Use of certain chemicals may cause injury and property damage. Read sprayer owner's manual and follow chemical label directions.*

Attached to the Terrapro's rear-mounted PTO, our new Hydraulic

Specifications subject to change without notice. Designed for off-road, operator use only. This product is to be used by one person only. Yamaha and the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America encourage you to ride safely and respect fellow riders and the environment. For further information regarding the SVIA rider course, please call 1-800-447-4700. Do not drink and drive. It is illegal and dangerous.

e work out of the rapro PTO.

l oil.

Power Unit can operate a toolshed full of tools.

our Terrapro sprayers are available in 50 and 100 gallon sizes, with a versatile hand-held sprayer.

For larger areas—the south forty, for example—we offer efficient boom sprayers.

Yamaha mowers are on the cutting edge with high-lift rotary blades, an adjustable mowing height of 1.5 to 5 inches, and efficient side discharge.

Of course, no matter what job you choose to do on your Terrapro, you'll be doing it on a machine that's more comfortable and maneuverable than any other farm vehicle you can name.

When the Yamaha Terrapro isn't working, it's playing.

And at week's end, when it's finished all that chopping, mowing, spraying, sawing and digging, your Terrapro will still be ready for one final task.

Playing.

With a powerful 348cc, 4-stroke engine to take you where your sense of adventure leads you. And high-traction, high-flotation tires to get you back out again.

If you think you could use a Terrapro around the place, we'd be happy to arrange it. As long as you're willing to put in a little work yourself.

Like calling 1-800-331-6060, ext. 684, for the name of your nearest dealer.

YAMAHA

We make the difference.

*180 day limited warranty includes Terrapro and Yamaha mowers and sprayers. Warranty terms are limited. See your Yamaha dealer for details. Dress properly for your ride with a helmet, eye protection, long sleeved shirt, long trousers, gloves and boots. **Available from hydraulic tool manufacturers. *Available in May, 1988.*

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The Bottom Line

Election year is an exciting time in America. In our political system, the office of president is open to anyone who wants to make the race, and a lot of people choose to try. Newspapers, magazines, radio and TV are filled with news about the campaign, the candidates and the issues.

There are several issues that make this year's election of particular interest. The weak dollar, the trade deifict, interest rates, inflation, taxes, defense spending, the U.S. involvement in several areas of conflict, and the national debt are just some of the issues that will get major attention. Add to this, the problems of agriculture and the kind of agricultural policy this country should have and you quickly realize the candidates have plenty to talk about.

To become informed on these issues and vote accordingly is a part of a person's right and responsibility of citizenship. And citizenship has always received major emphasis by FFA.

True, many FFA members are not old enough to vote. But when the voting age was lowered to 18 a few years ago, some FFA members became eligible to cast their ballot in the election and many do exercise this responsibility. For those not old enough to vote, your time will come but it is not too early for you to become informed about the candidates and the issues because many of the problems will be around for your generation to solve.

The FFA organization is non-political and is prohibited by its Federal Charter from participating in political activity as an organization. But this in no way limits your activity as an individual citizen to participate in the election as you wish.

Exercising your right and responsibility of citizenship includes becoming informed on the issues and voting accordingly. This should be a priority of every FFA member as you enter adulthood.

Wilson Carnes

Three things only an FFA member can do on a Terrapro.

Save $200.

Yamaha Terrapro PTO.

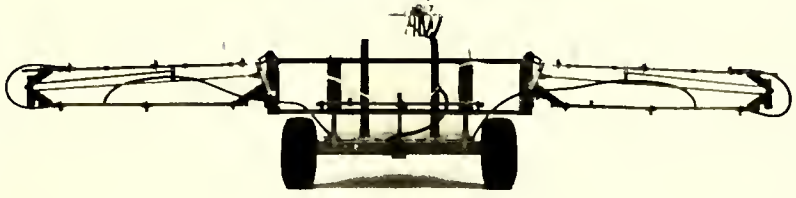
Coupon discount will be deducted from dealer's best price. Discount available to Future Farmers of America members only. Proof of membership must be presented at time of sale. Coupon valid through April 30, 1988. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. All vehicles subject to prior sale, all applicable taxes, licenses and fees.

Save $100.

Yamaha mower or hand sprayer.

Coupon discount will be deducted from dealer's best price. Discount available to Future Farmers of America members only. Proof of membership must be presented at time of sale. Coupon valid through April 30, 1988. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. All vehicles subject to prior sale, all applicable taxes, licenses and fees.

Save $50.



Yamaha boom sprayer.

Coupon discount will be deducted from dealer's best price. Discount available to Future Farmers of America members only. Proof of membership must be presented at time of sale. Coupon valid through April 30, 1988. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotional offer. All vehicles subject to prior sale, all applicable taxes, licenses and fees.

You can do a whole lot of mowing and spraying around the farm on a Yamaha Terrapro PTO.

And now, as a Future Farmers of America member, you can do even more.

Namely, save big money on the purchase of a Terrapro and Terrapro accessories, until April 30, 1988.

As a 3-star sponsor of the FFA, we figured it was the least we could do to help you celebrate your 60th anniversary.

Just present your membership card and coupons at your Yamaha dealer. (If the coupons are missing, your card alone will be fine.)

We'll take your savings right off the purchase price.

And you'll make your future farming a lot easier.

YAMAHA

We make the difference.

180 day limited warranty. Warranty terms are limited. See your Yamaha dealer for details. Drive safely. Always wear helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Be sure to read your owner's manual carefully. This product is to be used by one person only. Yamaha and the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America recommend that riders be 16 years of age or older and that adult supervision be provided for younger riders. For more information regarding the SVIA rider training program, please call 1-800-447-4700. Do not drink and drive. It is illegal and dangerous.

Mailbag

Kudos for Coonhounds

I would like to thank you for publishing the article on coonhounds in the December-January, 1987-88, issue of the magazine. I am glad to see a young FFA member doing such a fine job with competitive dogs. Many of the local chapter members found this article very interesting.

John Metcalf
Oak Harbor, Ohio

Letters from California

I really like the item on "Chapter Mom" (FFA in Action, October-November, 1987). She is a very dedicated person to the FFA organization and is very involved.

Carrie Clark
Delano, California

I like the item "Prom Safety" (FFA in Action, October-November, 1987) because it's good that FFA is doing something about teenage drinking and driving.

Christine Herrera
Delano, California

I like the article "Counting Sheep" (October-Noember, 1987). It was very sad for Anita Golden when she lost her prize winning sheep to a barn fire. I like that article because it shows how Anita never gave up, she knew she could do it and she did.

Chris Lumabao
Delano, California

I am really interested in the World Agriculture Science studies and am looking forward to graduating with a degree in ag science.

Nathaniel Rabina
Delano, California

Best Issue Yet!

I just finished reading the December-January issue of the *FUTUTRE FARMER* and wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire crew for doing one of the best issues yet.

I'm enjoying the articles on past FFA history. It brings back a lot of memories, especially when I was teaching.

Wm. Paul Gray
Past National FFA Executive Secretary
Loveland, Colorado

Lost Ring

Lost at the national convention—1988 Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School, Wisconsin, class ring, black onyx with initials J.M.H.

Jane Hilton
Galesville, Wisconsin

If you found this ring, please contact us at the address below. —Ed.

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

Tee Jay Miller, Our Hats Are Off To You

National FFA Horse Proficiency Winner

Tee Jay Miller, 18, of Ashby, Nebraska, pictured with her Hyannis FFA Chapter advisor (left) and National FFA Secretary, Kevin Yost (right), receives her award as the 1987 National FFA Horse Proficiency Winner. The FFA Horse Proficiency Award is sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association.

Our hats are off to you Tee Jay, because we recognize the work and determination required to be a winner. Congratulations to you, and to each of this year's regional, state and chapter winners. Your experience in FFA is the key to a bright future for the horse industry.

The American Quarter Horse Association and FFA . . . agriculture's new spirit.

The World's Most Versatile Horse

AQHA

American Quarter Horse Association

Dept FFA • Box 200 • Amarillo, Texas 79168

Sponsor
National FFA Horse Proficiency Award

AIM HIGH

SOME OF THE BEST JOBS IN THE AIR FORCE NEVER LEAVE THE GROUND.

Would you believe there are more than 200 training opportunities waiting for you? You could work in security, engineering, pharmaceuticals, surgical operations or fire fighting.

We'll teach you the job, then give you experience doing it while you're taking the time to think your future through.

If you attend college, we'll pick up 75% of your tuition. You can even earn an associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force.

Live that great Air Force life-style while you're serving America. Take the first step to your future. Aim high, with the Air Force.

To find out if you qualify, see your nearest Air Force recruiter, or call 1-800-423-USAF.

AIR FORCE

FOUR WHEELER OF THE YEAR.

Chevy's new 4x4 is off to a flying start.

Four Wheeler magazine has named Chevy's new full-size 4x4 the 1988 Four Wheeler of the Year.

Not because our big new 4x4 won its class at the Off-Road World Championships.* Or because it's the first all-new full-size 4x4 pickup introduced in this decade. But because the editors of *Four Wheeler* drove it. And loved it.

You can test drive that same Four Wheeler of the Year at your Chevy dealer's.

Do it and you'll feel the winning edge in power from a fuel-injected Vortec V6 with 15 more standard half-ton horsepower than Ford. Feel the precision of the standard 5-speed manual transmission with overdrive. Feel the ease of shifting on-the-fly with Insta-Trac that's also standard. Feel the smooth ride of the double A-arm independent front suspension system.

Test drive a new Chevy full-size 4x4 pickup and you'll feel quality built to last. Quality built to win.

*Race-modified 4x4 sponsored by GM Parts and outfitted with required safety equipment.

GM 6/60 QUALITY COMMITMENT PLAN Let's get it together... buckle up.

See your Chevy dealer for terms and conditions of the limited warranty.

Best-backed Chevys ever. 6-year/60,000-mile powertrain warranty protection and 6 years or 100,000 miles of body-rust-through protection. Solid proof of the quality built into every new Chevy full-size 4x4 pickup.

THE
Heartbeat
OF AMERICA
TODAY'S CHEVY TRUCK

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News In Brief

Treasurer's Book On Disk

An FFA Chapter Treasurer's Book computer program has been developed by the National FFA Organization and is available from ACCESS through the FFA Supply Service. The program contains functions to help treasurers keep track of the chapter budget, inventory and net worth, individual member records, receipts and disbursements, special chapter projects and check requests.

The program is currently available for the Apple IIe, IIc and IIgs computers. A minimum of 128K is required to run the program. It will operate with either a single- or double-disk drive system. An IBM version should be completed by March 1. The software is priced at $69.95 and a discount is available to ACCESS members at $58.28. Its Supply Service order item number is AG-001-APL.

Melba Fund Grows

The National FFA Foundation reports that contributions to the Melba, Idaho, FFA Memorial Fund have been pouring in from FFA members, chapters and private companies.

As of January 1, over $20,000 had been received to help ease the costs that resulted from the air accident which claimed the lives of two Melba FFA members and their advisor's wife. A number of other chapter members were also seriously injured in the crash. All contributions will be given to the Melba FFA/school officials for use as local needs dictate. Anyone still wishing to contribute to the Memorial Fund should send their contributions to: FFA Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, WI 53705.

March 1st Deadline for Scholarship Applications

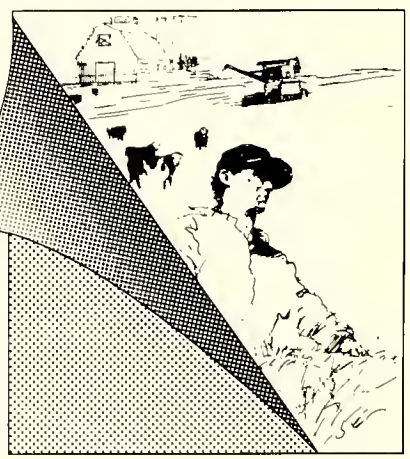
FFA members who are seniors in high school should have their National FFA scholarship applications mailed to the Scholarship Committee at the National FFA Center by March 1, 1988, to be eligible for scholarships this year. Applications were sent to each chapter advisor during December, 1987. See related story on page 18 for further information.

Theme Show on Sale

FFA's new theme show, "America, We Are the FFA" is now available on VHS tape through the Supply Service. The video, which features a contemporary, energetic original FFA song, was premiered at National FFA Convention in November. The video features FFA members and conveys the message of what the FFA is today and a sense of pride in America. The video is priced at $17.95 using order number V-18-87.

The ACA Education Foundation is offering their new Agriculture Day posters to FFA members at a special price. The poster described below sells normally for $7.25, but FFA members can pick up one for $5.00. There is a $2.00 shipping and handling charge.

A New Look For
NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE DAY



This year's poster -- "HONORING AMERICA'S PROVIDERS" -- is the first in a new fine arts series. It is a reproduction of an original oil painting commissioned from nationally known artist Bart Forbes.

To Order Yours Today:
ACA EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
1250 I Street, NW Suite 601
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-682-9200

Honoring America's Providers

Test ride the new F250 in your living room.

Now you can see what the amazing QuadRunner F250 can do for you without getting out of your easy chair.

The QuadRunner F250 offers you almost every feature you could want. Including low maintenance shaft drive. High and low range transmission. Convenient electric start with pull starter back-up. And it has the first 4-wheel independent suspension in its class. Plus, front and rear cargo racks, one touch detachable headlight and a heavy duty trailer hitch. But best of all, you get more work for less money.

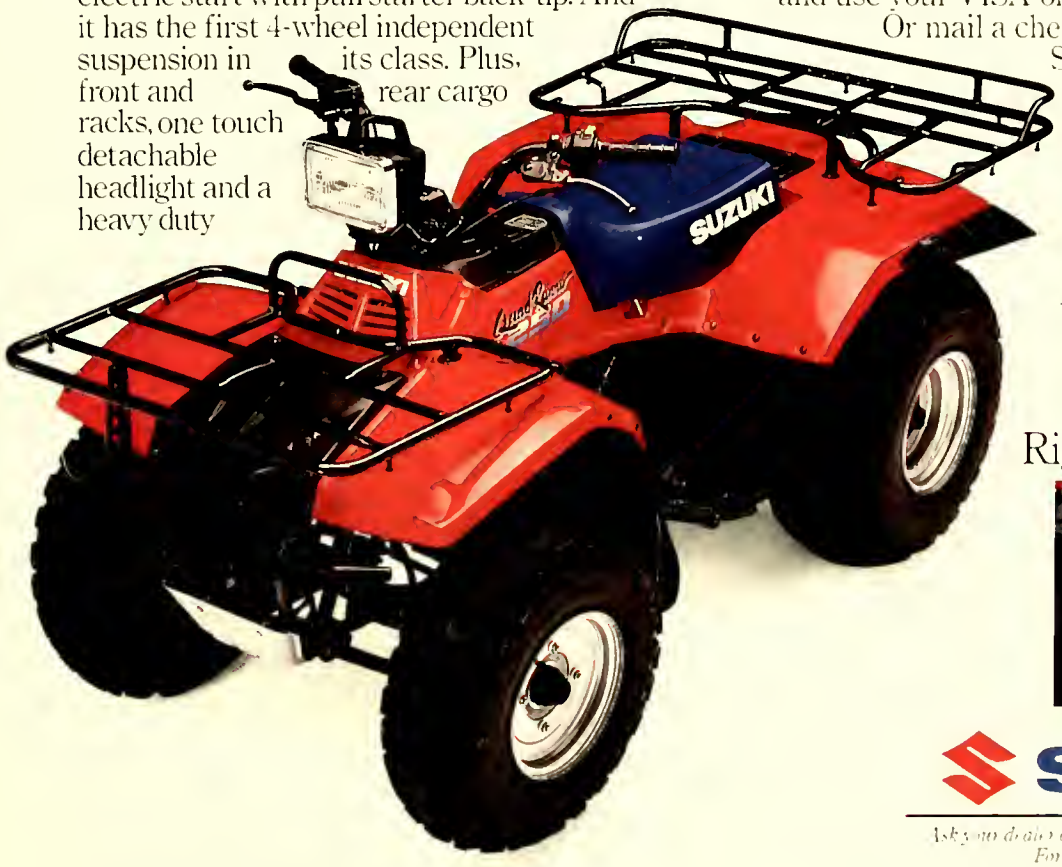
Now for only $9.95 (refundable with a purchase of QuadRunner F250, 4WD or 300E) this 15 minute video cassette* will show the F250 in action.

To order, call 1-800-255-2550 and ask for the Suzuki QuadRunner Farm Video and use your VISA or MASTERCARD.

Or mail a check/money order to: Suzuki QuadRunner Farm Video Cassette, P.O. Box 3900, Peoria, Illinois 61614.

The QuadRunner F250. The right tool for the right price.

*Please specify VHS or BETA
Allow 2 weeks for delivery after receipt of order
Offer good while supply lasts



Right on, Suzuki

SUZUKI

Professional riders pictured. Play it safe. Ride with care. Read your owner's manual carefully. Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective riding apparel. No riders under age 14. Supervise youngsters under age 16. ATVs are for off-road use only. Never carry passengers. Never drink and ride. Call the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America at 1-800-447-4700 for a riding skills course near you. Tread Lightly: ride only where authorized and respect the environment.

Ask your dealer about the Suzuki Retail Finance Plan. For the name of your nearest Suzuki Motorcycle and ATV dealer call

1-800-255-2550

Looking Ahead

Salt Pains Pines

Road salt hurts some pines more than others, so it pays to choose the right species. In a three-year study by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, 13 species were subjected to a salt spray like that kicked up by cars and trucks traveling slushy roads. Salt builds up in plant tissue and kills cells. Harmed least were ponderosa pine, Austrian pine and Japanese black pine. Ponderosa pine worked best at keeping salt out of its needles, making it an excellent candidate for roadside tests.

On the Biotech Front...

- A new, bioengineered vaccine for pseudorabies in swine received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, clearing the way for its introduction to market.

The new product, called TOLVID Vaccine, was developed by the Upjohn Company. It has been bioengineered using two gene deletions—one gene that causes disease and one gene that makes possible a test to differentiate vaccinated pigs from infected ones.

Pseudorabies is a contagious disease in swine that costs the U.S. swine industry an estimated $22 million each year.

- Is the U.S. losing its competitive edge in biotech already? Some seem to think so, including Earle H. Harbison, Jr., president and chief operating officer of Monsanto Company. On November 4, he told a Senate Agriculture Committee that "many governments have formally recognized biotechnology and genetic engineering as important to the economic futures of their nations. In this country, by contrast, biotechnology is still perceived primarily as a regulatory and legal problem, not an economic opportunity."

Like the automobile and electronics industries, the Japanese are seen as waiting for the U.S. to do the initial research and development on biotechnology products, and then use that knowledge to manufacture the products cost efficiently.

REAL Research

The first of six dairy research centers has opened in Logan, Utah, in an effort to increase research output on dairy products and to increase the number of dairy food scientests. The Western Dairy Foods Research Center (WDFRC) involves three major western universities, Utah State, Oregon State and Brigham Young.

Research efforts at WRFDC will focus on new processes and quality improvements in cheese and other fermented milk products. Funding for the research center is being provided by the National Dairy Board, universities, local industry and dairy producers.

"American Farmers" TV Special

The television special "American Farmers" will air on some 135 stations across the nation during National Agriculture Week March 20 to 26, 1988. This seventh annual television special is presented by Elanco Products Company, and sponsored by FMC and Ford Truck Division.

The program features individuals involved in agriculture, the nation's largest industry and biggest employer. Stories include a farmer producing lighter, less-fat beef in Iowa; an Illinois farm wife who is a self-taught expert in commodity marketing and comparisons of U.S. agriculture with that of the Soviet Union.

Safer Tomato Products

Tomato farmers may make more profits by using fewer chemicals and also relieve consumers' fears of fungicide residue, thanks to research at Ohio State University.

Researchers began a three-year project last year to help tomato farmers save money on fungicide spraying. Only the plants and harvesting cost more than the spraying, horticulturist Mark Bennett said.

Bennett is working with three other Ohio State researchers on the project. They are trying to pinpoint the most cost-effective timetable for fungicide spraying. Less spraying can reduce production costs and increase farm profits.

The researchers decided to expand the study after a National Academy of Sciences report issued last May branded tomato products as possible cancer risks.

Products such as tomato paste and tomate juice were cited as especially risky because of possible concentrations of pesticide and fungicide residues. Even though the report was based on hypothetical data, public concern over fungicide residue increased.

America's Changing Farms

A comparison of typical farms and farmers from 1880 and 1982 gives a clear picture of the changes agriculture has seen in the last century.

1880	1982
• 44 percent of U.S. population lived on farms	• About 3 percent of U.S. population lived on farms
• 4.0 million farms	• 2.2 million farms
• 536 million acres	• 987 million acres
• Average size: 134 acres	• Average size: 440 acres
• 100 percent family owned	• 89 percent family owned
• Average age of operator: 39.5 years	• Average age of operator: 50.5 years
• Sold $2.2 billion of agricultual products	• Sold $132 billion of agricultural products
• Average sales: $552	• Average sales: $58,858

Pictured left to right are: Mickey McCall, Dunn LeDoux, Kelli Evans, President Ronald Reagan, Terri Hames, Kevin Ochsner and Bill Hollis.

White House Photo Bill Fitz-Patrick

National Officers Meet with President Reagan

Oval Office Visit Caps Two-week Training Session

FFA's six national officers met with President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office of the White House on December 17. Officers Kelli Evans, Kevin Ochsner, Dunn LeDoux, Bill Hollis, Mickey McCall and Terri Hames spoke with Reagan for about 15 minutes in front of national news media.

Evans, national FFA president, spoke to Reagan about the FFA and invited him to the 61st National FFA Convention in Kansas City this November. Reagan did not confirm his attendance, but said he would consider it.

Evans also read a poem written by Sherry Nelson of Melba, Idaho, who was killed in the Continental Airlines jet crash in Denver. Nelson and other Melba FFA members were returning from last year's National FFA Convention when the crash occurred. Nelson's poem focused on taking the time to enjoy life.

After meeting with Reagan, Mickey McCall, southern region vice president, was interviewed on the White House lawn by a television video crew. The interview aired on WLOS, channel 13 in Asheville, North Carolina, which serves McCall's viewing area.

Earlier in the day, the officers met with Peter Myers, deputy secretary of agriculture and Wilmer Mizell, assistant secretary of agriculture, to discuss current agricultural issues.

The White House and USDA visit capped two busy weeks for the officers as they met at the National FFA Center with National FFA Organization staff to prepare for the coming year. Their orientation also included speaking and media training, computer workshops and a short business and industry tour with the National FFA Foundation staff. •••

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Simple Goals: Be the Best

Their aggressive attitudes and high standards make Chowchilla's agriculture program a class act.

By Andrew Markwart

Lloyd McCabe, 1987 Agriscience Teacher of the Year, helps Chowchilla agriculture students like Teresa Pittz, above, understand the complex world of plant and animal science.

It's no secret. The agriculture department in Chowchilla, California, wants be the best high school agriculture program in the country. Some would say that's a pretty lofty goal. Lloyd McCabe, head of the department, expects no less.

McCabe was named 1987 FFA Agriscience Teacher of the Year at national convention last November. The award, sponsored by ICI Americas Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, is presented each year to an individual who excels in the area of teaching agriscience. That bothers McCabe. He refuses to take personal credit for something that he says has been a team effort the whole way.

"I don't see (the award) as a personal recognition, but as a recognition of what the department has been able to do," says McCabe. "I've been behind it and pushing it, but that's my function."

What the five-teacher department has done is attract almost 30 percent of Chowchilla's total high school enrollment of 600 students to study agriculture and join FFA. Some of the attraction to McCabe's program are the "Introduction to Agriculture Science" course that counts as a science credit and the "Plant Biology" and "Animal Physiology" classes that have been okayed as college prep science courses —all designed by McCabe.

His method in building the program over the past 11 years has been to guide the new classes through the proper certification channels and then hire a specialist to teach the course. "I hired Chuck Holloway because he is very strong in plant science," says McCabe, "and you won't find a finer animal science instructor than Scott Vernon."

And it's not just in the plant and animal science area where McCabe demands excellence. "We're all specialists in our area and we're all the best. If you ask anybody in the state,'Who is the expert?' in any particular area, our name is going to crop up. That's the way we like it.

"In anything we do, we're going to be number one or we're not going to do it."

Recruiting Top Students

The driving force behind Chowchilla's program has been the pursuit of first-rate students. "My chief philosophy is that I like to recruit college prep students," said McCabe. "I think the agriculture industry needs quality individuals."

That recruiting effort is helped considerably by having

one instructor, Harry Maddux, double as a school guidance counselor. As a result, many of Chowchilla's top academic students are in the agriculture program. Instructor Vernon, who is also in charge of computer science classes, summed-up Chowchilla's emphasis on academics, saying, "We feel a college education is vital to their success."

Randi Ray, state winner and third-place finisher in the national Computers in Agriculture Award program said she started out hating computers until instructor Steve Vernon showed her the right way to use them. "He taught me that it was important for me to know what I wanted the computers to do for me rather than how they worked," remembers Ray.

"If you ask anybody in the state,'Who is the expert?' in any particular area, our name is going to crop up. That's the way we like it."
-Lloyd McCabe

She used the advice to manage her family's 700-head dairy herd records using spreadsheets and databases. Her mother was so impressed with Randi's change in attitude that she eventually took computer night classes offered by Vernon at the school's computer lab.

Besides the priority on a college education, McCabe says the teachers also try to promote a sense of competition both in class and FFA. "We're more progressive than most, but we've been able to blend that in with a traditional FFA." Their recent FFA record supports that statement. In 1987 alone, Chowchilla claimed one state officer, one western region and six state proficiency award winners, a national Computers in Agriculture finalist, seven American Farmer Degree recipients and 21 State Farmers.

More Than Microscopes

Ronnie Bass, a 1987 graduate of Chowchilla, found that the agriculture program was broad enough to include his interest in mechanics. With the help and supervision of instructor Steve Obad, Bass built a number of shop projects, his most ambitious being a hydraulic hoof trimming chute for a local dairyman.

The chute won Bass a number of construction awards in central California, but Obad hopes his students, like Ronnie, are learning more than how to build a quality implement. "The number one thing we're trying to do in the shop is helping students develop pride in what they do."

Obad is thrilled with a recent addition to the shop which was funded mostly by a community fundraiser. The majority of Chowchilla's 5,000 residents rallied around the program and raised $37,000 for the new facility. It is that climate of support, says Obad, that keeps the program growing. "Our school board is extremely supportive and the community is beyond our expectations—they're just fantastic."

Graduate Ronnie Bass proves there is more to Chowchilla than microscopes. The western region Agricultural Mechanics proficiency winner built this hydraulic cattle hoof-trimming chute in the department's metal shop.

Like most success stories found in high school agriculture and FFA, there is a mix at Chowchilla of dedicated teachers, enthusiastic students and a community that supports the program. The critical ingredient, says McCabe, is the process by which it all happens.

"Students feel they have more of a purpose here," he concludes. "What separates us from anybody else on this campus is that we make learning fun, and learning should be fun. •••

Computer science instructor Scott Vernon got Randi Ray hooked on computer record keeping. Randi placed third in the national Computers in Agriculture program last year.

Decisions, Decisions

By Michael Wilson

Brian Chausse stays one step ahead of farming's challenges by keeping track of production costs and making sound marketing choices

BRIAN Chausse knows there's more to his future in farming than just planting or harvesting corn. He has to consider his marketing opportunities, test plot evaluations, management decisions...and, to be sure, challenges.

That's just fine with him.

"The people who know how to make good management decisions and keep records will be able to stay on top," says Chausse. "A good management decision may save you thousands of dollars."

Perhaps that's why Chausse, 19, spends so much time *managing* instead of just farming his 300-acre leased corn and soybean farm near Nokomis, Illinois. And perhaps that attitude is why Brian was named the 1987-88 national proficiency winner in feed grain production at the National FFA Convention last November.

Brian plans to return to the farm and extend his partnership with father Gerald Chausse, after finishing a two-year associate's degree program at Lakeland Community College. He is the third generation of Chausses to work the family's 1,350-acre grain farm. But unlike the good old days, today's farm requires more mental work than muscle work. He knows you've got to play all the right cards, and sharp marketing skills are Brian's ace in the hole.

"Within a week, grain prices can change tremendously," he says, "and within one day you can experience a 3-cent difference. If you're selling 10,000 bushels of corn, that's $300 right there. Knowing when to sell, buy, or wait makes all the difference."

A grain producer's best friend; his dog or a new grain truck? *Photos by Author*

Although he is just beginning his farming career, Brian already knows how to take advantage of most marketing tools, like computers and cash grain contracts. In fact, Brian helped convince his father last year to make one of the farm's wiser marketing decisions: to enroll in the government's set-aside farm program.

"We weighed both options, to put 20% or 35% of the land into set-aside," Brian remembers. At the time almost all outlook indicators--especially for corn prices — were bleak. By placing the larger percentage of land into the set-aside program, the Chausses were able to guarantee the maximum income target price of $3.02 per bushel of corn produced.

Like most farmers today, Brian doesn't particularly enjoy getting help from the government. But he also knows there are not many other options.

"You'd like to think there will come a day when we won't need price supports," he says. "But with prices as low as they are, we almost have to have government programs. Without them, I don't think many farmers would survive right now."

Another advantage to government programs is that set-aside acreage — land that's left out of the feed grains rotation of corn and soybeans — usually produces better yields the next year, says Brian. And fewer acres in production will help farmers in the long run.

"It is imperative that we reduce surplus grain by planting fewer acres, increasing exports, or finding new uses so that prices per bushel will increase," Brian says.

Testing, testing...

One of Brian's most rewarding management decisions was to start a seed corn test plot two years ago so he could evaluate different types of corn hybrids. He began by planting 26 varieties

from five major seed corn companies. By looking at corn plants as seedlings, through the tassel stage, and finally through harvest, he was able to learn much about each hybrid's performance.

"Besides yield comparisons, I ran population, standability and moisture checks in the test plot," Brian explains. "We checked to see if stalks were weak through dry weather, how easy it was to get a combine through the field, and if we were losing any corn during harvest.

"A good management decision may save you thousands of dollars."
--Brian Chausse

"It was a great experience," Brian now says. "You could go through and look at information and maximize yields for this area. Over a two-year period we figured out which were the best hybrids for us to use. And now we know first-hand which experimental hybrids sold next year will work well on our soils."

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, which sponsors the national feed grains production proficiency award, also sponsored Brian's test plot both years. Last year a competing variety had the top dry yield with 210 bushels per acre, and an experimental Pioneer hybrid earned top yield honors this year with 192 bushels per acre.

Fast Information

Getting advice and price quotes fast is an important part of making good marketing decisions. That's why last year the Chausses installed a Dataline market information system in their home. Besides daily price increases and decreases, the system presents USDA outlook information and futures markets information.

"You can stay on top of corn prices and markets right in your home," says Brian. "You don't have to run out to the elevator to check prices before making marketing decisions."

In fact, Brian tries to get as much information as he can before making any decisions on the farm. With accurate soil tests he can measure soil pH and determine exactly how much fertilizer he needs to produce profitable yields.

He calculates all costs of production during the growing season. "You must be able to know how much it costs you to plant a bushel of corn compared to what your return is," Brian says. "That's the only way you'll know if you're making money. You have to know what you need to get out of that bushel of corn to survive."

Brian climbs a grain bin that is part of the farm's 135,000 bushel storage facility. A computerized grain monitoring system uses temperature and moisture sensors to automatically turn fans on and off, in order to maintain the best environment for stored grain. "The system has been in place three years now," says Brian, "and it has saved us both money and peace of mind."

Unquestionably, Brian intends to be a survivor in farming. He already has plans to start up a 200-head finishing house for hog production within five years after college graduation. He also plans to buy or rent more acres — a definite sign that Brian Chausse is in farming to stay.

"I hope there will come a day when farming gets easier," he says. "But I plan to be farming even if that day never comes." •••

A Gentleman and a Scholar

Dana Soukup got his chance to attend college through a National FFA Scholarship

Winning the top scholarship awarded to an FFA member in the nation in 1987 became a dream-come-true for Dana Soukup of rural Spencer, Nebraska.

I couldn't believe it," said the 19-year-old youth of the news that he had won the $25,000 scholarship sponsored by the TSC Farm, Home and Auto Stores as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Like the hundreds of other applicants, Dana said he dreamed about winning the top scholarship as he filled out the detailed application forms. He knew that he needed financial assistance if he was to enter college.

Like many farm families, the Soukups have felt the financial ups and down which have rocked the agricultural sector since the early 1980s.

Dana, his parents and his brother, also an FFA member, hold off-farm jobs to assist with expenses. "Everyone is doing everything they can to keep the farm and provide a living," said Dana.

The $25,000 scholarship will assist Dana with cost of his four-year education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture where he is pursuing a double major in agricultural economics and agricultural education.

Dana will also receive help with his educational expenses in the form of a $1,000 national Cargill Scholarship; a $300 Nebraska FFA Alumni Scholarship; a $170 Spencer FFA Chapter-Affiliate Scholarship and a $500 Younkers Farm Aid Scholarship.

The 1987 graduate of Spencer High School said he hopes "to work as an agricultural financial consultant or maybe teach and coach."

Dana believes in setting lofty goals and then striving to accomplish them, one step at a time. Last spring alone, he was elected president of the Nebraska FFA Association; earned the FFA's North Central Nebraska Area Star Agribusinessman title and ranked first academically in his graduating class.

Exhibiting his firm belief in the power of positive thinking, Dana said, "Nothing's impossible if I set myself to it."

He is modest about his accomplishments and is quick to acknowledge the influence others have had in his life."I credit my family and my belief in God. I'm happy with what I've done," he said.

Risks and Hard Work

Dana was employed off the farm for three years beginning in his sophomore year when he worked after school every night stocking shelves and carrying out groceries at a local store. With the money, Dana purchased some feeder lambs.

The project proved an indoctrination into the "real world."

"It was a learning experience. It was the first project that was totally my own," he said. Dana also lost money --"quite a bit" -- on the venture. Undaunted, he purchased more sheep the next spring with money earned from work at the grocery store.

This time health problems plagued the flock. "The second year didn't work out much better than the first, but I like raising sheep," said Dana, eager to learn and grow from each encounter in life.

Between his junior and senior year, Dana landed what he called "a real job," mowing parks in the Fort Randall dam area at Pickstown, South Dakota, 25 miles to the north of the Soukup farm. Dana logged about 500 to 600 hours of work. He

Just Apply Yourself!

All FFA seniors eligible for college or vo-tech scholarships

Over $200,000 in college and vocational/technical school scholarships will be awarded this year through the National FFA Organization's scholarship program. The money is donated by over 50 sponsors through the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

According to C. Coleman Harris, national FFA executive secretary and administrator of the scholarship program, most of the scholarships will be presented late this spring to members starting college as freshmen in the fall of 1988.

What are the qualifications to receive one of the scholarships? "These scholarships are available for every (high school) senior in FFA," says Harris. "I would challenge every senior to go after one of these scholarships. If an FFA member has had a strong SOE, has been active in their chapter and has kept good grades in school, they've got a good shot at getting one of these scholarships."

He adds that only a few scholarships require proof of financial need, supplied through a Parent Financial Analysis Page included in the application form.

Applicants are judged equally on the strength of their Supervised Occupational Experience project, FFA activities in their chapter and community and high school grades. Most of the scholarships are targeted for two- and four-year colleges and some are designated for a particular college. Most of the scholarships are offered to those students enrolling in agricultural areas of study. The most popular area of study receiving the most scholarships is agricultural education.

Although the scholarships range from $500 to $25,000, most are awarded in the $1,000 area. FFA members receive the money after they have submitted their college class schedule to the scholarship committee.

By Mary Pat Finn

also continued to assist with his family's crop and livestock operation.

Dana again worked at the grocery store in his senior year, purchasing some feeder cattle and hogs with the earnings.

He developed a number of invaluable skills through his agribusiness experiences. His impressive work record earned him the North Central Area Star Agribusiness title at the state convention in Lincoln last April. He was also elected state FFA president at the convention.

"I am so thankful for the opportunities this organization has offered me. This organization (FFA) is the greatest youth organization, in my opinion; it offers so much opportunity to develop yourself and make friends. My best friends are all in FFA.

"FFA teaches you how to be competitive and how to work with other team members; how to push yourself and be a leader by setting an example."

Dana said he has noticed marked changes in himself since becoming an FFA member as a freshman. He cites increased self-confidence and a belief in himself and what he can accomplish as examples.

Others have watched Dana grow through his FFA involvement. Sally Rossman of Atkinson, president of the Nebraska FFA Alumni Association, has known Dana for the past four years.

"Dana, from the very beginning, has been outgoing, warm and friendly, extremely polite. I think Dana has always known what direction he's going. To see that he's done everything on his own, displays the quality of the person he is," said Mrs. Rossman.

Dana Soukup received FFA's largest scholarship in 1987, sponsored by TSC. *Photos by Author*

Rich Katt, executive secretary of the Nebraska FFA Association, describes Dana as "a natural leader. He doesn't have to be in the limelight. He's at his best when he brings out the best in others. He can sit back and watch with a proud smile when others on the state officer team do well."

"He gives everything his best shot," Katt said of Dana. "He's an FFA member you tend to notice." •••

The FFA scholarship program has grown rapidly since its start four years ago. Since it started in 1983, the program has distributed about $275,000 in its first three years. This year alone FFA members will receive over $200,000. In its early years, the scholarship suffered a lack of quality applications because of poor exposure. Although no scholarship ever went unfilled, Harris said, "There wasn't much competition for a number of those scholarships."

"If an FFA member has had a strong SOE, has been active in their chapter and has kept good grades in school, they've got a good shot at getting one of these scholarships."--Coleman Harris

He said that besides the obvious assistance in paying for college, a national scholarship can be a big plus in other areas. "The recognition factor is almost as important as the money itself. If you have "National Scholarship Recipient" on your resume down the line, that will catch the eye of a lot of prospective employers. Even if a member didn't even receive a scholarship, noting that they even applied shows initiative."

Harris also points out the availability of scholarships for disabled and handicapped FFA members from B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building Rural Initiative for Disabled through Group Effort). In its second year, B.R.I.D.G.E. is offering six scholarships of $1,000 each to members wishing to study in any agricultural major at a four-year university.

Apply Now

Deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 1988. FFA members who need a scholarship application form should check with their chapter advisor. If none are available, request one from: Scholarship Office, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Again, all applications are due postmarked March 1, 1988. •••

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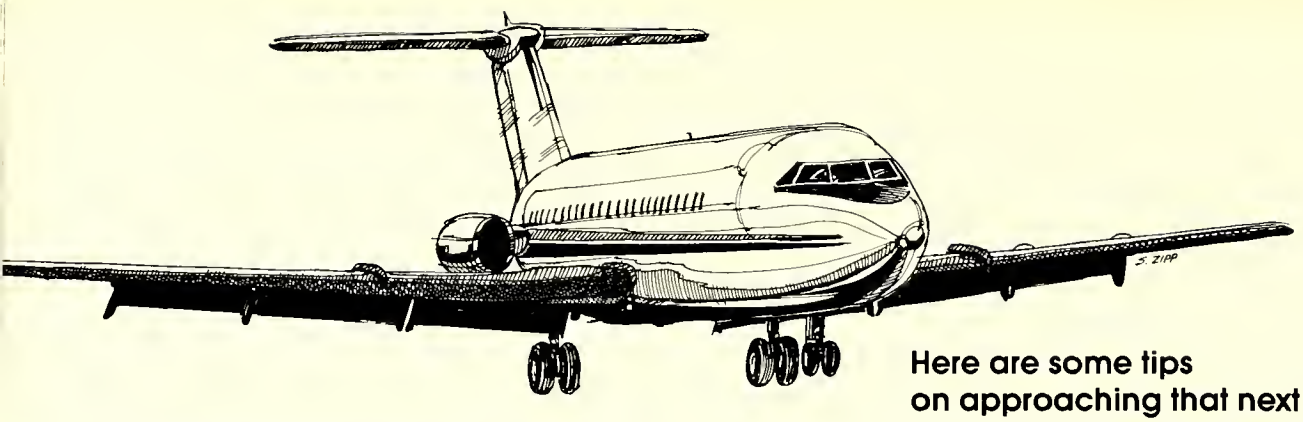


Here are some tips on approaching that next interview

Landing a Job

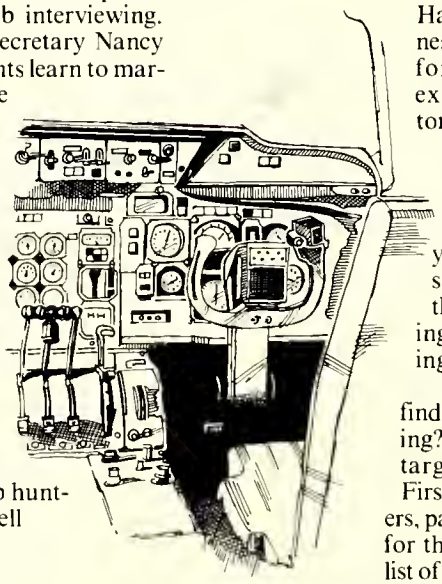
By Shirley Sokolosky

YOU'VE made the decision. You're going to look for a job.

Your mind immediately fills with questions. Where do you look for places to interview? How do you fill out the application, write a resume? What must you do to impress the employer so that you'll be hired?

Job hunting is a skill, just like judging a cow or writing a speech. In fact, New Jersey and a few other states consider it so important that they've developed a state FFA contest in job interviewing. New Jersey Executive Secretary Nancy Schnetzer says participants learn to market themselves in positive ways by submitting an application, resume and going through an interview with three judges. The contest teaches basic skills that can be learned and polished, says Schnetzer.

You will use these skills over and over again during your lifetime. On the average, Americans change careers three to five times, and jobs four to seven times. Learn job hunting now, and you'll be well ahead of the pack.



Taking Inventory

Before you rush out and start interviewing at random, sit down and take stock of yourself. This will help you to determine where you should try to interview.

What do you like to do? What are you good at? What skills have you used in previous jobs, whether they were for pay or not?

What is your schedule? If you're in school full time, you'll need to determine how many hours you'll be able to work and when those hours are. Do you have a car? How far could you drive? And, how far should you drive and still be able to make money?

What are your goals? If you'd like to be veterinarian, it's probably wise to think about working for a vet or if you want to own a nursery someday, seek a job with a horticultural business.

This is not to say that you must have a job in your chosen field. If you can find one, that's great. If not, you can learn much from any job. Habits like promptness, working hard for the full time expected, and customer relations are basic skills that are good to learn early. These are things you can learn, and should learn, whether you're arranging flowers or selling hamburgers.

How, then, do you find out who's hiring? It's best to take a targeted approach. First, ask your teachers, parents and friends for their ideas. Start a list of names, addresses and phone numbers from which to work.

Study your local newspaper. Look for help wanted ads in the classified section. Also read articles and advertisements to get an idea of who the community leaders are. Notice the businesses that are heavily involved in the community and with organizations. These groups may be more likely to hire young people. Also look for businesses that need seasonal help, like agricultural supply stores which need part-timers during planting and harvest or stores that do heavy business during holidays.

Once you know where you'd like to interview, find out the name of the person in charge of hiring at each place of business by calling or stopping by. If you stop in, make sure you're neatly dressed and presenting your best image.

Ask what the hiring process is. Find out about applications and interviews. Go ahead and set up an interview as soon as you can. The employer will be impressed by your eagerness and you'll be on your way to your first interview.

Preparing

Every business is different. Some may require that you submit an application which gives personal and work information, and which helps them determine if they want to interview you. Others may be less formal, and just want to talk to you. You need to prepare for both extremes.

Applications. Take your time in completing an application. Make sure each answer is accurate and honest. Employers want honest employees, people whom they can trust to know the inside workings of their business. In many cases, you will be dealing with money, and from the first minute you need to accurately portray who you are.

Write neatly. If you can't, print in block letters or type. Illegible writing does not make a good impression.

Before you write on the application, read it from start to finish. Think about your answers before you put the pen to paper. That way, you will minimize mistakes and keep the application neat and clean of smudges.

Resume. (See article on next page.) A resume is a detailed summary of you and your activities. Many high school students don't take the time to write one, and thus are ignoring an opportunity to show they will go the extra step; always a plus when looking for a job. Employers want people who will give more than

they have to, and a resume is a good way to do so.

Practice. You'd never get up at a public speaking contest without practicing first, but most people interview without ever polishing their skills. Just like anything else, you will be better with practice. Ask someone you're comfortable with, perhaps a teacher, to give you a practice interview. Ask for constructive criticism. Be prepared to make changes. Everyone has mannerisms that need work, and you should be prepared to sit up straighter, talk slower, be more complete or do whatever your practice interviewer suggests.

Once you're used to the idea, you might ask your ag teacher to videotape a practice interview so that you can see how you come across.

Getting Your Interview Off The Ground

Charlie Cohlmia is a former Afton, Oklahoma, FFA member who owns a retail garden center and gift shop in Tulsa. Because of the seasonal nature of the horticulture business he takes on part-time workers during the holidays and the spring planting season. Cohlmia is always looking for good people, and he says there are several phrases that impress him in an interview.

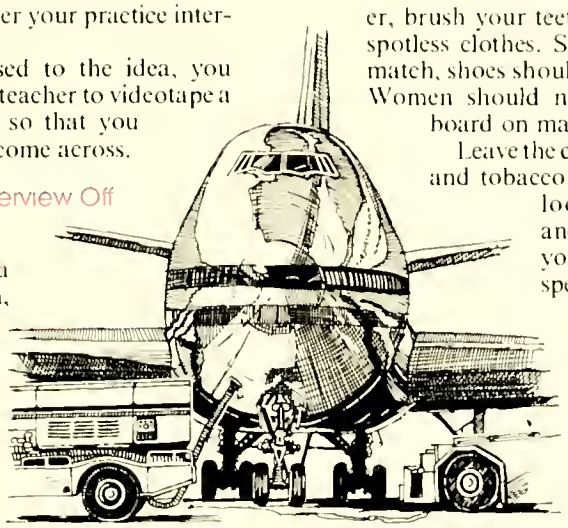
"If someone came in here and said, 'I'll be here promptly,' and 'I'll call in if I'm sick' and 'I'll work extra hours' that person would have my attention," he says. "The person who says 'Please hire me, I have lots of bills' or 'Please hire me, I want to go to school' has lost my attention." Those kinds of people have lost sight of why the job is there, he says, and don't realize that their personal goals should be secondary in a job interview.

The mistake many young people make, says Cohlmia, is feeling like they are owed something without putting in the time and effort. "Someone who's never worked needs to realize they need to produce for a full eight hours and need to give 110 percent. If they do, their biggest problem will be how many promotions they have to turn down."

Doing the following right will have much to do with how a job applicant comes across.

- Be prompt, or better yet, slightly early. Employers want people who will be on time. You will not impress them by showing up late. If you're unfamiliar with the location of your interview, allow extra time for finding it, or go find it the day before. If some emergency happens to you en route and you are late or do not make it at all, apologize to the interviewer.
- Dress appropriately. Thom Rakes of the University of Missouri Career Planning and Placement Center, suggests that you dress one step above what you would actually wear on the job. "If employees wear slacks and a shirt, you might add a sweater or a tie," says Rakes. Beware of overdressing, which may show that you have no concept of what you'll be doing on the job.

Be neatly groomed. Your hair should be clean and recently cut. Shower, brush your teeth and wear spotless clothes. Socks should match, shoes should be shined. Women should not go overboard on makeup..



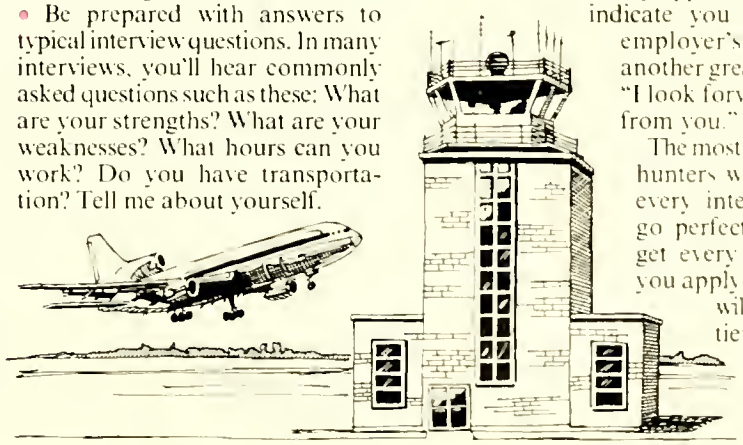
Leave the chewing gum and tobacco at home. It looks sloppy and will hinder your ability to speak clearly.

Use your best manners. Show your prospective employer that he'll be respected by standing until he asks you to sit, by using the courtesy titles "Mr., Mrs. or Ms." and listening intently to what he says.

- Watch your posture. Slumping sends out negative messages about you. Instead, keep your back straight. Lean forward slightly to show that you're interested.
- Have direct eye contact with your interviewer. You should focus on your interviewing and not on that interesting plant in the corner.
- Don't give just "yes" or "no" answers. An interviewer is trying to get to know who you are and what you can do. When he asks if you've worked before, answer with more than one word. You might say, "Never for a wage, but I've been working in my dad's drugstore for years keeping the floors clean, dusting displays and stocking shelves."
- Be prepared with answers to typical interview questions. In many interviews, you'll hear commonly asked questions such as these: What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? What hours can you work? Do you have transportation? Tell me about yourself. Why do you want to work here?

These are general questions and how you answer them tells the interviewer a great deal about you. If you're clear, to the point and organized, you're likely to be the same way on the job. If you stumble over your words and don't have much to say, the impression will be negative.

- Sell yourself. Thom Rakes says we've been taught not to brag and "we consider bragging to be anything positive." If you don't show the employer what you could do, no one will. Don't be afraid to list your strengths and to give examples. If you're a dependable employee, says Rakes, be prepared with some examples of times that you have been dependable and list them.
- Listen carefully. Don't be so eager to tell all you know that you don't hear what the interviewer is saying.
- Be pleasant. Have a smile on your face when you first greet the interviewer and show that you are a positive person around whom to work. No one likes to work with a grouch.
- Offer a firm handshake. Use a firm handshake to greet your interviewer when you arrive as well as when you leave.
- Ask good questions. At the end of an interview, the employer may ask you if you have any questions. "No" is an incorrect answer. "What will my salary be?" is another loser. Instead, be prepared with three or four questions which show your interest in the job. Ask about the business' history, plans for the future. Find out what kinds of tasks you'd be expected to perform. If the employer indicates he is ready to discuss salary, then you can talk money. Sometimes this discussion does not come until a job has actually been offered.
- Tell the interviewer you want the job. Once you'be been interviewed, tell the interviewer you want the position. Convey the fact that you want the job and would work hard.
- Write a follow-up letter. Most times, the job will not be offered at the interview as there will be other candidates. You can make one more contact by writing a thank-you letter. The note should be short, neatly typed or written, and indicate you appreciate the employer's time. This is another great chance to say "I look forward to hearing from you."



The most experienced job hunters will tell you that every interview will not go perfectly. You won't get every job for which you apply. However, you will be learning patience and honing skills that will come in handy for a very long time. •••

Writing Your Resume

A RESUME is an advertisement for you—an overview of who you are and what you've done. It's usually one page long and typed. At the top you list your name, address and phone number. You then spell out your activities, work experience and honors. At the bottom, you list hobbies and references.

A resume is the way you share information that may not be asked for on an application or during an interview. Like most everything else, preparing yours will be easier if you follow a step-by-step process and the tips below.

■ **Gather information.** Think back over your high school years. Write down all of the work experience you can think of, whether it be volunteer or for salary.

Next, list your activities. What have you done in FFA, sports, organizations? List offices and committee chairmanships, major events like attending Washington Conference or a state camp, and contest teams. Also, list honors and awards, such as FFA degrees, scholarships and other winnings.

Employers like to hire well-rounded people. You may want to list a few personal interests, such as sports (be specific), reading, photography, stamp and other kinds of collecting.

Some resumes list information such as height, weight, health and so on. A good rule of thumb is, "Does it have anything to do with how well I could do the job I'm applying for?" Unless it does, you're wasting valuable space to list it.

■ **Organize** and write your resume. Decide first what your section headings will be called. Simple choices are Work Experience, Activities, Honors and Awards, Interests and References.

Within each section, you can list your achievements chronologically—in the order which they occurred. For work experience, write the dates, places and types of work. Be specific and highlight areas of responsibility and innovation.

Under activities, if you have been active in a number of groups, you might consider a subheading. Have one list for FFA, one for French Club and one for Track team. As in work experience, if you were responsible for a project or activity, write it down.

List honors and awards along with when they were received.

Don't devote a large amount of space to interests. Usually one or two lines will do the trick.

Under references, you have two choices. The first is to put the statement, "References available upon request" so that you can change references depending upon the job. The other is to list actual names, addresses and phone numbers. Remember, never give out anyone's name as a reference unless you have their permission.

Before you type your resume, ask someone to proofread it for you and offer suggestions to improve it. One of your teachers or counselors can probably do the best job. They should look for mistakes in grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence structure.

■ **Type your resume** neatly on white typing paper or enter it on a computer. Proofread this copy carefully. Remember that mistakes make a poor impression. An employer may think you are careless or do not pay attention to details.

If you're pleased with your resume, make several copies and put the original away in case you need to make more later.

A resume ought to be updated whenever something on it changes significantly. Having yours on a computer will make updating easy.

There are many good books on resume writing and job hunting available in your local library or bookstore. Ask the clerk or librarian to help you locate those most suited to your age and experience. •••

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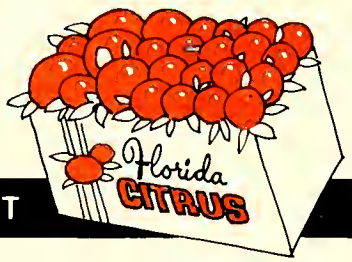

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Up Close And In Person

The 1987-88 National FFA Officers

By Jeri Mattics

So who are they? What do we really know about the 1987-88 National FFA Officers?

The simple truth is they are six friendly, enthusiastic individuals who have come together to form a team.

FFA members tend to hold national officers in high regard, as well they should, but they need to realize those six individuals are first and foremost young people just like themselves. Chances are you probably have something in common with them.

Kelli Evans, national president from Hayes Center, Nebraska, says sports are a big part of her life. She was on her high school's varsity volleyball and basketball teams, the latter of which went all-state. Not only talented on the courts, Evans is an avid rodeo contestant as well. Barrel racing, team and breakaway roping are her events. A sophomore majoring in agricultural economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she participates in intramural volleyball and basketball.

Evans remembers her high school curfew vividly. "I had to be home by 12 midnight, no exceptions. If I was late, Mom was sitting on the couch waiting for me to return, then *watch out*!"

Kevin Ochsner, national secretary from Fort Collins, Colorado, is an devoted country music fan and isn't afraid to hit the dance floor. When asked about high school sports, Ochsner just shakes his head and replies, "No, I'm just not coordinated enough." While everyone else was playing sports, Ochsner was busy at home with his registered cattle. He has always been interested in livestock judging and auctioneering, both of which are steering him toward a career in agricultural marketing.

Ochsner is a sophomore at Colorado State University where he is dual majoring in agricultural journalism/ business. He won his first jacket in the local creed speaking contest and then went on to place in the top three in the state finals.

Bill Hollis, central region vice president from Bushnell, Illinois, won his first jacket in the creed speaking contest, also. Hollis is an avid sports fan but hasn't been a serious contender for a while. He says, "I played football for two years and then everyone else grew. I do play intramural basketball and football on campus though."

Hollis' musical tastes vary from Van Halen to George Strait, depending on time and place. His favorite movie is "The Man From Snowy River."

He enjoys snow and water skiing when he's not showing cattle, which is both a hobby and a business. Hollis is financing his education in animal science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with a combination of scholarships and profits from the sale of steers.

Mickey McCall, eastern region vice president from Balsam Grove, North Carolina, played high school varsity football, basketball and track. McCall plays intramural volleyball and softball at North Carolina State University where he's a sophomore majoring in agricultural education.

In choosing his field of study, McCall was greatly influenced by his high school agriculture teacher and also his enthusiasm for working with young people, both in agriculture and athletics. To make money for school, he said, "I've financed my college education totally through my Christmas tree operations and several academic scholarships." His musical tastes range from southern rocker's .38 Special to country crooner Earl Thomas Conley.

Dunn LeDoux, southern region vice president from Denham Springs, Louisiana, takes everything in his "Cajun" stride.

His sense of humor is almost always evident, even in his timepiece. LeDoux explains, "When I was preparing to run for national office, my old watch gave out and I went to buy a new one. I was looking at all the serious, professional-type watches when I noticed a Mickey Mouse watch. I said to myself, how many times a day do I look at my watch? Wouldn't it be great to look down at Mickey and see, no matter what time it is, he's always smiling, always happy? I bought the Mickey Mouse watch."

LeDoux credits his experience of living in Hungary, through FFA's Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program, with deciding his course of study. A sophomore at Southeastern Louisiana University, LeDoux is studying agricultural marketing and plans a career in the international marketplace.

Terri Hames, western region vice president from Norman, Oklahoma, says her chosen field of study was also heavily influenced by her involvement in high school agriculture. "I was in speech and drama and I love agriculture, so I guess one plus one equals ag communications." Hames is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University and is financing her education through a combination of scholarships and working on campus.

Hames is a student who doesn't take grades or preparing for class lightly. She says her favorite place to study is the kitchen table.This year, however, term papers and algebra homework will have to give way to writing speeches and letters.

From comics to perfectionists, this officer team is obviously made up of very different people. Their various strengths and personalities make the team well-rounded, just like any team of chapter officers. As they travel across the U.S. this year talking about FFA, they'll also be following their college sports teams, livestock prices, world affairs, new music and all sorts of other interests. They are exciting, interesting young people, especially when you get to know them...up close and in person. •••

Your National FFA Officers are, clockwise starting from bottom center, Kelli Evans, Dunn LeDoux, Bill Hollis, Terri Hames, Kevin Ochsner and Mickey McCall.

The New Ag Professionals:

Plant Breeders:
Improving Agriculture's Future

When researchers developed hybrid corn more than 60 years ago, few realized the incredible impact it would have on agriculture.

Today plant breeders play one of the most important roles in agriculture. With the dawning of another incredible tool—biotechnology—plant breeders are again on the leading edge of exciting changes. This time they're working to improve not just corn, but many different crop hybrids and varieties like soybeans, wheat, sunflowers and ornamental plants.

Bill Ambrose, a 30-year veteran of plant breeding and central region corn breeding director for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, says the goal of plant breeders is simple: to improve specific characteristics of plants.

The end result is to make a plant farmers can grow to make a higher net profit. For example, plant breeders are now trying to create corn which requires less nitrogen. In alfalfa, a perennial crop, plant breeders are trying to create plants that are more disease resistant and winter hardy.

Plant breeders work both in the laboratory and in the field. "A lot of it is developing plans for plant breeding techniques and for manipulating germ plasms, making the manipulation, gathering data, analyzing and interpreting that data, then starting the cycle over," says Ambrose, a former Normal, Illinois, FFA member.

Specialized field

Bob Falasca, secretary of the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders (NCCPB) says plant breeding is a very specialized field. Breeders work in two areas: the public sector, which includes universities and the USDA, and the private sector, which includes seed companies.

The NCCPB conducted a study four years ago and found that there are about 435 full-time scientists with Ph.Ds, 268 people with master's degrees, and 487 people with bachelor of science degrees working in plant breeding in the private sector. There are also several hundred professionals with similar training who work in the public sector, Falasca estimates. About 200 seed companies employ plant breeders to do research, either for their own company or to sell to others.

Lots of training

Most plant breeders are full-time scientists and have gone to college several years to earn a doctorate degree. Their work in agronomy, genetics, and pathology demands lots of training.

Plant breeders are beginning to use biotechnology tools more and more. The significant impact of biotechnology is ten or more years away, but breeders are incorporating those tools more and more in their work. Meanwhile, biotechnology has created an additional field of professionals who work with plant breeders. These fields are also specialized and require advanced education.

The goal of plant breeders is to improve specific characteristics of plants.
Photo by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

There are jobs available in support fields for people with less advanced education and training, says Ambrose.

"We hire technicians with bachelor degrees that have responsible, challenging jobs," he says. Those with four-year or two-year college degrees work with plant breeders as technicians, research assistants, or assistant plant breeders. He estimates there are at least two or three times as many technicians compared to the number of actual plant breeders.

According to Falasca, you can even get involved in plant breeding as a high school graduate. "If you're lucky, you can get a job at a seed company working with a plant breeder maintaining records in the field, or working with seed."

Such experiences often point high school students toward careers in plant genetics. Maybe that's why most plant breeders are former farm kids, 4-H or FFA members, says Ambrose.

Skills and experience

If you're interested in plant breeding, take as much science and biology classes as you can while in high school, Falasca recommends. That holds true in college as well. Plant breeders also need math and computer skills to interpret the data they collect. Organization, writing and time management skills are important.

You'll learn about plant breeding in vocational agriculture classes. You can also get some experience by working at a seed company—even if it's a no-frills job like de-tasseling corn (a basic first step in most plant breeding). Try working on an internship, part-time, or summer-job basis. It won't guarantee you'll get to work with plant breeders, but you may gain some insights to their profession.

Your SOE program experience on a crop, fruit or vegetable farm could come in handy as well, says Jim Moutray, director of forage research at AgriPro Seeds, Ames, Iowa.

"Learn to manage a crop properly, and take an interest in making comparisons between different hybrids and varieties," says Moutray, a former New Mexico FFA member. "It's essential to know how to manage a crop before you can perform experiments and design crops that will respond to good management."

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When you read between the lines, it says that a father and son partnership is ready to serve their customers in a number of different ways, most any time of the day.

Eighteen-year-old Jack Jr., started in the alfalfa business in the third grade, helping around the family ranch in Le Grand, California. By the time he was a freshman in high school, Chapman owned and was operating state-of-the-art forage equipment.

His first major investment was a New Holland 1075 diesel harrowbed which automatically stacks hay on wagons in selected patterns. With the expensive equipment on hand, Chapman soon found out he had to keep busy to make ends meet.

"I was responsible to make payments and pay for the fuel," Chapman recalled. "To do that, I had to go out and hunt up some customers." That initial hunt turned into a custom hay hauling service. At one point, Chapman and his father were harvesting alfalfa hay off of 3,500 acres in the Le Grand area.

During Chapman's early high school years, business was steady hauling hay for other ranchers, almost too steady. He was hauling practically full-time from April to October while going to school and juggling the two wasn't easy. "I joined football as a freshman, but every time it rained, I'd have to run home and make sure everything was taken care of."

He said that keeping his mind on what the teachers were saying was always difficult when there were deliveries yet to be made that day.

During that same time the urge grew stronger for Chapman and his father to grow and market their own alfalfa. So they began renting a few acres here, leasing a few there, and before he was out of school, he had sold the harrowbed and they were full-service hay brokers.

Chapman is now involved in marketing alfalfa hay from the time it's planted until the bales are delivered to a cus-

(Continued on Page 36)

Jack secures a load of over 70 bales of alfalfa to his father's hay retriever.

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Building Communities From the Inside Out

BOAC project tackles tough social problems

By Andrew Markwart

The Sumner FFA Chapter help handicapped students feel welcomed and appreciated during "Wool-Away Days."
Photo by Greg Pile

Drug abuse, unwanted pregnancies, suicides, drunk driving, none of these topics are pretty. It would be easier to pretend these problems exist in some far-away school in a different neighborhood in another town. But some combination of those problems will probably hit every public high school in America this year. Facing these issues is a part of living in the 1980's.

Although these problems are big enough in themselves, the biggest problem of all may be that most teenagers don't like to talk about these issues, even though they seem to be on everyone's minds.

Such was the case at Sumner High School in Sumner, Washington. Teachers there were worried by the lack of self-respect students had for themselves. They called a meeting of representatives from all student organizations to talk about the problem in an effort to find some sort of solution.

It was agreed that a series of workshops addressing key social issues would of most help to the student body. When it came time for someone to coordinate the workshops, the Sumner FFA Chapter volunteered, seeing a new avenue for their Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program.

"It seemed like a natural thing for us to do," said Katie Heitstuman, BOAC chairperson. "We had the connections and the organization already in place." Under the supervision of FFA advisor Greg Pile, Heitstuman and her fellow members went to work. A poll was taken to define which issues needed to be addressed. Once six topics had been selected, professionals in each area were contacted to speak on topics such as drug awareness, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, risky sex, building self-esteem and drinking and driving.

Respect Yourself

The workshops were presented under the theme "Respect Yourself Day." Students could choose to attend the workshops that interested them most with the exception of the drinking and driving session where attendance was mandatory. According to FFA member Amiee Dozier, the sessions had a strong impact on her classmates. "It affected everyone. You could have heard a pin drop in the room I was in."

Although it was successful BOAC project in itself, Respect Yourself Day was only one portion of Sumner's BOAC program for 1987. Earlier in the school year, the chapter had identified a lack of agricultural awareness in their community along with the low morale and performance of their fellow students.

Under an umbrella theme of "Awareness Alert," the chapter set out to accomplish five objectives: teach urban elementary children the importance of agriculture, work with elementary children in their own school district on coping with peer pressure, help young children understand personal safety, get involved with young handicapped people and tackling teen social problems.

What resulted was a project addressing each objective. Through their "Farm Connection" project, the chapter reached over 4,000 urban Seattle elementary children with a message of agriculture's importance in their community. Working with Seattle Elementary Science Coordinators, the chapter put on 72 presentations, informing the children of the origin of their food and crops native to the Seattle area.

When the chapter decided to teach elementary students in Sumner how to stand on their own and not give in to peer pressure, they brought in specialist Debbi Badgley from STARR, the Sumner Tobacco and Alcohol Risk Education Project. The goal of STARR, which is funded by the school district, is to involve both schools and community in helping young people avoid problems with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. They taught Refusal Skills to the young students, assuring them that saying "no" is often the right thing to say. The STARR Project participated in a number of the FFA chapter's BOAC activities.

As an offshoot of Refusal Skills, the chapter worked with Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup to teach very young children about drug awareness. Called "Kid Safety Day," the chapter used puppets to entertain and educate over 400 children about the dangers of drugs.

And finally the chapter sponsored a special event for handi-

(Continued on Page 37)

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Alumni Offers A Helping Hand

Denmark FFA Chapter members benefit from alumni activities

By John Hillison

"THE calf chain they support is a good way to get started in dairy production."—Jennifer Kapinos.

"They support almost any program we want to run."—Derick Paider.

"They paid all of my expenses to the National Safety Congress in Chicago."—Tammy Kapinos.

"I appreciate the fact that they paid for half the cost of my FFA jacket."—Paul Kaminski.

These are comments made by Denmark, Wisconsin, FFA Chapter members about their alumni affiliate. The quotes are testimonies to a system that works so well that the Denmark Affiliate was recently recognized by the National FFA Alumni Association as the national Outstanding Affiliate for the fourth time.

Warren Wellner, local butcher and alumni member, participates in the Denmark FFA Chapter Food for America program. Chapter members are, left to right, Kelly Malach, Corey Martin and Mark Robinson.

Denmark's Affiliate is an example of what affiliates are supposed to do—support local vocational agriculture programs and FFA chapters. They help by supporting and sponsoring many local awards and activities.

The Denmark Affiliate purchased a 12-passenger van for the vocational agriculture/FFA program at Denmark High School. The van has been used for numerous trips including ones to Kansas City, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. Logging 16,000 miles in just nine months, the van has been kept busy. Maintenance on the van is taken care of by the school district.

The van is not only practical, but also a source of pride since it is painted in FFA blue and gold. Its markings include the FFA emblem and the name of both the chapter and the affiliate.

Starting a Dairy Calf Chain

Since dairy is so popular in Wisconsin, the affiliate started a dairy calf chain for FFA members by purchasing a registered calf. The chain continues by donating a heifer calf to a member. When that calf matures into a cow, her first heifer calf is given to another member. For members who have unregistered dairy stock it is an opportunity to improve their herd. For members who would like to have a dairy project, it is an opportunity to get started. Five calves have already been produced for the chain.

International Support

The affiliate assists with both the inbound and outbound students participating in the Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program. Inbound students, such as Leon Coenders of Holland, stay in the homes of FFA alumni members. Inbound students also have the opportunity to work at the farms and businesses of alumni members.

The affiliate has a standing offer of $500 support for any Denmark FFA member who is selected for a WEA exchange.

The Denmark affiliate also works with the Future Farmers of America Alumni Exchange Program. In 1986, Al Mazna, current affiliate president, visited Holland. In 1987, he helped host a group of six dairy farmers from Holland.

Proficiency Award Sponsors

Members of the Denmark FFA Chapter are encouraged to develop excellent Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) programs by receiving awards sponsored by alumni members. Local proficiency awards are presented at the annual FFA banquet by affiliate members who sponsor them. This cooperative effort results in better SOEs, recognition for the hard work of chapter members and highlights one of the major purposes of the alumni affiliate.

Food for America

The Denmark FFA Chapter has a successful Food for America program due in part by the helping hand of their alumni affiliate. Chapter members visit third grade classrooms in local elementary schools where they make presentations on agriculture.

After being taught the basics, the third graders have the opportunity to see the real thing. Alumni members invite the grade school students to visit their farms, implement business, cheese factory and butcher shop. Members even provide food for the third graders.

Affiliate Membership

The nearly 500 members of the Denmark FFA Alumni Affiliate are quite varied in background. They range from recent high school vocational agriculture program graduates to over 80 years of age. A cross-section of the community belongs to the affiliate. Members include parents, farmers, agribusiness people, school administrators, school teachers, community leaders and school board members. The affiliate has a remarkable 98 percent membership retention rate.

A Success Story

Denmark FFA Chapter co-advisor Ken Seering credits a great deal of the gold emblem chapter's success to the local FFA alumni affiliate. "It has quadrupled the number of chapter activities by providing many more opportunities for chapter members and by providing $6,000 a year of financial support to the chapter. Overall the alumni serves as a great nucleus for manpower as well as providing excellent input for both the vocational agriculture curriculum and the FFA chapter's program of activities."

The Denmark FFA Alumni Affiliate represents a success story because of the hard work of dedicated members who have kept in mind the purpose of their organization. They recognize the need to support vocational agriculture and FFA. •••

Choosing a Different Path

ADAPT2 Conference offers alternatives, fresh ideas

By Andrew Markwart

National FFA public speaking winner Scott Stewart felt right at home talking about ostriches and catfish with total strangers. For two years Stewart had studied the trend of farmers producing those animals and hundreds of other speciality commodities in preparation for his award-winning speech on alternative agriculture.

Now he had the chance to talk to the people who were actually raising these "less-than-traditional" animals. Stewart, Oklahoma's central district FFA vice president, joined more than 2,500 farmers who attended the ADAPT2 diversification conference held December 3-4 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The ADAPT2 (Ag Diversification Adds Profits Today) conference was sponsored for the second year by *Successful Farming* magazine in an effort to publicize alternative kinds of enterprises farmers could use to supplement their income.

Although total attandence of the conference was about half that of 1986, it was well attended by FFA members. Stewart had traveled from Stillwater, Oklahoma, to attend. Julie Adkisson, a high school junior from, Dexter, Iowa, raises Angora rabbits and sells vegetables grown on five acres of land. She was collecting information for a public speaking contest she is planning to enter. FFA members Robert Schmitt and Eric Wilson, seniors from Richmond, Kansas, were watching for new trends in agriculture before they headed for Kansas State University this fall.

They and dozens of FFA members attended sessions on raising alternative animals and crops and how to plan and market a small business. The sessions, conducted mostly by producers who had adopted an alternative enterprise, had a common theme: know your market, then produce for that market.

Richard Krumme, editor of *Successful Farming*, said during the conference's opening session, "The whole basis of marketing is responding to consumer need." He cited the example of the concern consumers have of fat in their diets. Some producers have responded by raising "Lite beef" and growth in fish farming is evidence that producers are adopting the attitude of giving the consumer what they want.

Marketing What's Natural

Although FFA members attended sessions on raising specialty products such as oyster mushrooms, snails, crawfish and llamas, the sessions that seemed most practical for FFA members were those that didn't take a lot of capital investment or "start-up money."

Most of these sessions centered around the idea that people living in urban areas find rural farm life relaxing and are willing to pay good money to enjoy it. Presenter Delores Skoglund ran a bed and breakfast service out of her home in Canova, South Dakota. The Skoglunds open their farm to vacationers who find it enjoyable to ride horses, feed cattle and be outdoors—for a price.

Much of their business comes from overnight travelers. Guests are treated to an evening and morning meal and the freedom to roam around the farm. The Skoglunds even offer special packages for various hunting seasons.

As odd as it may seem for people who live on farms (and have to do chores), farm life is a rare commodity many people are willing to pay for.

Roadside marketing is another enterprise that takes little investment and fills an important consumer need for fresh produce. Pick-your-own fruit and vegetable plots are also gaining popularity around urban areas. In both instances, it was emphasized that the three most important factors in the success of these enterprises are location, location and location. Many of the alternative commodity enterprises or businesses need to be within 30 miles from a large urban area to be profitable.

For FFA members considering an alternative commodity for their Supervised

(Continued on Page 36)

The Candidates

Along with alternative agriculture, the ADAPT2 conference provided alternative politics by featuring a number of Presidential candidates. Republican hopefuls Jack Kemp, Pete DuPont, Pat Robertson and Democrat Jesse Jackson spoke at a "Candidate's Forum" about their proposed agricultural policies to the ADAPT2 participants.

Jackson remained at the conference after the candidate's forum to answer questions. Stewart, Adkisson and Bryon Murphy of Redfield, Iowa, met briefly with Jackson.

Scott Stewart met briefly at the ADAPT2 conference with Rev. Jesse Jackson after he fielded questions about his proposed agricultural policy.

Photos by Author

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Selling Service

(Continued from Page 30)

tomer. "I like the idea of growing our own hay and selling it to people then seeing that they appreciate the top quality and good preparation that's gone into it," said Chapman.

He regularly makes deliveries within a 40 mile range, but had delivered as far away as 60 miles. He uses a New Holland hay retriever mounted on the bed of a two-ton Chevy truck. The retriever can pick up a stack of 74 small square bales through a hydraulic system much like a fork-lift.

He also says that since his area is renowned for top-quality alfalfa, you have to rely on more than just a good product. "It's important to have good communication with people to understand what they want," says Chapman. "I put myself in their position and try to see their point of view to know what kind of product they're looking for."

Chapman had ample opportunities to

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ADAPT2

(Continued from Page 35)

Occupational Experience (SOE) program, Stewart says selecting the right enterprise makes all the difference. "An unsuccessful SOE project is probably caused by boredom or lack of interest and alternative agriculture can help curb that."

"It all comes down to what enterprise is right for you. Instead of working 10 or 20 acres of your dad's wheat land or taking a few of his cattle, maybe you could look into an enterprise that is going to complement your family's existing enterprises."

Stewart also says FFA members are in a unique position in getting involved in alternative agriculture. "As young people, we have the advantage that we are not so set in our ways that we're afraid to change. We don't have as much to risk. We can stick our necks out a little further without having to worry about our whole lives being ruined."

He says that although starting an alternative agriculture project can breathe life into an SOE program, introducing a new commodity or small business to a community sometimes can have certain pressures. "Adopting any of these alternative enterprises is going to take courage. Pride, emotion and tradition are three things that have hurt the farmer. Tradition is probably the strongest.

He also sees FFA members taking the lead in alternative agriculture. "The best thing that alternative agriculture has to offer FFA members is a chance to be a specialist, an entrepreneur or a pioneer in a field. If I, as an FFA member, started raising ostriches, I'm going to be a pioneer in that field. I think there would be more interest and self-pride in that than being just one of thousands and thousands of beef producers." •••

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sharpen those communication skills as an FFA member at Le Grand. He served as chapter vice president his senior year and sentinel his junior year. His biggest milestone in FFA came when he was named as the western region Agricultural Sales and Service proficiency winner in 1987.

His advisor, Ken Westall, says that it was old-fashioned hard work that has built the Chapman business and helped Jack win the proficiency award. "He's one of the hardest working students I've ever had," said Westall. "With all of the bad publicity we hear about agriculture, it makes you feel good to see a student who wants to farm."

Although he's now a freshman at nearby Merced Junior College studying agribusiness, the days of worrying over his hay deliveries are far from over. "I'll be sitting in political science class and I might be thinking, 'That guy needs five loads by Saturday. How much can I run tonight? What am I going to charge him per ton?'"

For Jack Chapman, a sale is a sale, but the service never stops. •••

Sumner BOAC

(Continued from Page 32)

capped students who were being mainstreamed into the high school's student body. A two-day event called "Wool-Away Days" gave handicapped students the opportunity to show sheep and watch them being sheared.

For their outstanding work in their total BOAC program, Sumner was named first-place chapter winner in the National FFA's Building Our American Communities program, which is sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Chapter member Pat Calpito said that the chapter's involvement in community projects has helped the entire student body better understand FFA. "People see the official dress and know what you're all about and what you're doing," said Calpito. "Before, they couldn't get past the 'farming,' but now they're beginning to understand us better."

Although Sumner's program was out of the ordinary for most BOAC community development programs, chapter member Monte Scholz sees their program accomplishing a common goal, but from a different direction. "What we're doing is beautifying our community from the inside." •••

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Chapter Scoop

Elmwood, IL, members went to the elementary school and conducted a session on Halloween safety tips.

Mark Troyer won the bale toss at the **Smithville,** OH, FFA barnyard olympics with a throw of 26 feet, 9 inches.

The BOAC project for the **Princeville,** IL, Chapter was building a greenhouse.

"Farmers Feed the World" was the winning theme for **Captain Jack** FFA float in Huntingdon County, PA. Since they won top prize in three local parades, they treated themselves to a pizza party.

Trophies were presented to the first three places of **Springdale,** AR, Creed contest.

Marana, AZ, FFA held their Greenhand initiation at a breakfast.

Round Valley FFA in Springerville, AZ, is refurbishing and constructing new livestock barns at the county fairgrounds for their BOAC project.

All 120 residents at the local nursing home got carnations from the **Hudson Middle** FFA in FL, on grandparents' day.

Five officers from **East Union,** CA, FFA attended an area leadership conference. Attended sessions on image, proper etiquette and cooperation.

Fund-raiser project for the **Jetmore,** KS, FFA was treating for prairie dogs on a local ranch. The money will help pay for FFA jackets.

Fulton, MO, raised 4,000 pounds of popcorn on two acres to raise money for chapter activities. The popcorn was hand picked and sold at 3 pounds for $1.

Scholarship committee chairman *Ben Trausch* of **Upper Sandusky,** OH, published a list of FFA members who made the school honor roll.

Lisbon, NY, FFA hosted an exchange for six members and their advisor from **Portville,** NY.

FFA Alumni are invited to a social after the homecoming game at **Snohomish,** WA.

Upper Sandusky, OH, members picked apples for a local grower in exchange for all the ground apples they could pick up (which they used to make cider to sell and fill orders).

Killingly FFA in CT, sponsored a course for horse lovers covering care and management, feeding, horsemanship, buildings and equipment.

Miller City, OH, helped unload and set up equipment for a blood drive.

Lafayette, MS, built an exhibit of all the crops grown in the county such as corn, syrup sorghum for molasses, sweet potatoes and loblolly pines.

Doyle, TN, horticulture students made a floral flag for the fair exhibit. It had 200 red, white and blue carnations.

Rye Cove, VA, offers a squeeze chute to the community for use in working with livestock. They charge $1 every day the chute is out to ensure its speedy return.

Members in **Humphrey,** NE, observed the embryo transplant process and got to see calves from an earlier successful transplant.

A simulated airplane crash took place over Tampa, FL, and FFA members in **Gaither** were involved in the emergency exercise following the simulation.

Advisor *Cunningham* offered to shave his beard if the **Deltona Jr.,** FL, Chapter swine brought $5 per pound at the fair. When it went for $10, the buyers (cheered on by his students) insisted on the whole head being shaved! That's one way to raise $2,460 for the chapter.

Hillsdale, OH, FFA members voted to send $50 to their state FFA Foundation.

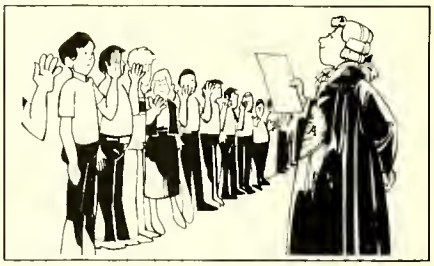
Delegates to the national convention from **Hidden Valley,** OR, Chapter received $125 from the chapter and additional funds from several local agribusiness firms in the valley.

Patterson, CA, sold beef jerky for two weeks and raised the $2,200 they needed to send two delegates to Kansas City.

A steak-out is a way the **Prague,** OK, FFA makes money. They sold 500 steak dinners with potatoes, corn-on-the-cob and soft drinks before one of the home football games.

Chapter Farmer members of the **Drewry Mason,** VA, FFA constructed wooden toys in the vo-ag lab to give to the local Christmas cheer organization for the area children.

New signs for the **Fort Hancock,** TX, sheriff's department and the Justice of the Peace office were made by the FFA.



Magee, MS, inducted 32 Greenhands into their chapter.

Meridian, ID, members raked and cleaned up after the Western Idaho Fair and earned $750. They also ran a food stand in the livestock show barn and made great profits.

Oak Harbor, OH, Chapter appoints third-year vo-ag students to be a "big brothers" for the Greenhands in the chapter.

Mcintosh, AL, FFA hosted a county leadership workshop to help chapters get to know each other better and to discuss chapter leadership programs.

Share stories or details about the fun, important or unusual wintertime activities of your chapter. What have the leaders done to make it a better chapter?

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Highlights of 1987

It was a year of special events and new directions

As FFA continues to change and grow, there were some important events and new directions for FFA in 1987. Featured below are the highlights of this past year.

Spectacular 60th Convention

The 60th National FFA Convention set a new attendance record of 24,128 members, advisors, sponsors and guests. The attraction to this particular convention was the impressive lineup of speakers: Lee Iacocca, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation; George Bush, vice president of the United States; William Bennett, U.S. Secretary of Education; Robert Dole, Kansas senator and presidential candidate; and Roger Staubach, former Dallas Cowboy quarterback.

For the first time, the convention was available for viewing to more than two million receivers across the country through the Agricultural Information Satellite network (AGRI-SAT).

Reagan Addresses State Officers

Braving the sweltering heat of a Washington summer, President Ronald Reagan spoke to participants of the State Presidents' Conference held July 27-31. Mr. Reagan talked about government agricultural policy and also recognized individual FFA members for their contributions to their communities.

National FFA president Kevin Eblen presented Mr. Reagan with an FFA Blue and Gold award.

Foundation Record

The National FFA Foundation raised a record $3.01 million dollars for FFA in 1987. That mark easily surpassed the 1986 record of $2.59 million. The money was contributed by 668 Foundation sponsors through the encouragement of the 1987 Sponsors' Board and its chairman, Robert Lanphier.

National Advisor Travels to Japan

In early February, Larry Case, national FFA advisor, traveled with the 1987 national officers to Japan. The group toured Japan's agricultural industry, met with the Future Farmers of Japan and stayed briefly with Japanese families. It was the first time a national FFA advisor had gone on the international experience trip with the national officers.

World Agri-Science Studies Begin

FFA's International Department started a new exchange program for high school students interested in studying agriculture in other countries. The program, "World Agri-Science Studies (WASS)" began in the summer of 1987 with 15 European students coming to the U.S. to study high school agriculture. They were hosted by FFA families. Fifteen FFA members also traveled to Germany in July on the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship program, which is offered through WASS.

Made for Excellence

A new series of weekend personal development seminars called "Made for Excellence" premiered in Tampa, Florida, in October. The seminars are an extension of the Washington Conference Program. The "Made for Excellence" seminars were developed to serve more members in their home states.

TV Special Focuses on FFA

"Hidden Harvests," a television special highlighting agricultural education and FFA, was aired in ten Midwest states during the week of March 7-15. The special, hosted by actor Eddie Albert, revealed emerging opportunities and the role education is playing in the transition of the agricultural industry.

Kevin Eblen, 1987 National FFA President, applauds Vice President George Bush after his speech at the 60th National FFA Convention in November. *Photo by Orlin Wagner*

Three Millionth Jacket

The three millionth blue corduroy FFA jacket was purchased by Crystal McDaniel of Evadale, Texas, in November. Although she was a high school junior, it was McDaniel's first FFA jacket. She decided to give up her band elective to take agriculture class and become an FFA member.

Young Farmers Move To FFA Center

Headquarters for the National Young Farmer Educational Association was moved to the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Wayne Sprick, a former agriculture teacher from Washington, Missouri, was selected as executive director for the Young Farmers in their new location.

The National FFA Center now houses the National FFA Organization, National FFA Alumni Association, National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture and the Young Farmers. •••

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The Supply Service and magazine moved into this new building in 1957.

FFA's Third Decade

The third in a series of articles on the history of FFA.

By Wilson Carnes

FROM 1948 through 1957, the FFA continued to grow and develop many new activities that serve the membership.

It was during this decade that FFA received its Federal Charter, started the National FFA Supply Service and *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, took over publishing the Official FFA Calendar and built the first permanent building at the FFA camp which was later to become the national headquarters.

In the 1940s it was necessary for a teacher of vocational agriculture to write to 16 different companies to obtain all the official FFA merchandise. Service was poor with some companies. FFA investigated the feasibility of operating its own supply service and the decision was made to proceed.

In February, 1948, the Supply Service officially opened for business. A small folder was prepared and mailed to FFA chapters featuring six items. Hundreds of orders were sent in immediately. There was not enough staff to process these orders and some went four to six weeks before being opened and acknowledged. Additional staff was employed and after adjustments were made, the Supply Service has followed sound business practices in its operation and management.

Another change during this period was the granting of a Federal Charter to FFA. There was serious concern over protecting the name and emblem of the organization. Some felt a Federal Charter would also give FFA additional prestige. It was decided to incorporate into one bill a Federal Charter, protecting the name and emblem and clarifying the relationship between FFA and the Office of Education.

After considerable work, the bill was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives without opposition. President Truman signed the bill on August 30, 1950, and it became Public Law 740, 81st Congress. The entire act is printed in the Official FFA Manual for those who wish to read it.

The first issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine was published in October, 1952. Delegates to the 1929 FFA Convention discussed the possibilities of starting a national magazine but the FFA did not have the necessary funds. Members kept the idea alive, however, until the organization was in a position financially to publish a magazine on a quarterly basis. Since 1956, the FFA magazine has been published six times a year.

The national FFA magazine was quick to gain acceptance among members and advertisers. The color cover and editorial content was directed to FFA members.

In 1957, the Boards decided it was in the best interest of FFA to take over operation of the Official FFA Calendar previously published by the Osborne Company under authorization of the FFA. The management and operation of the calendar program was assigned to the FFA magazine. The magazine began publishing the calendar with the 1958 edition. The calendar is sold by local chapters and has proven to be an excellent public relations tool with color pictures illustrating various FFA activities.

The success of the FFA Supply Service and the national magazine created a need for adequate facilities. A permanent and attractive building would further the dream of some day having a national headquarters for FFA.

Ground was broken for the new building on July 24, 1956. In October, 1957, employees of the Supply Service and magazine moved into their new quarters.

Dr. W. T. Spanton, the national FFA advisor, took great pride in the fact that the building was "paid for by the members" and was not a gift from some major corporation or foundation. Most of the money for construction had come from Supply Service sales to FFA chapters.

Located near Mount Vernon and Woodlawn Plantation, the colonial design of the FFA building blends well into the surrounding neighborhood.

Milestones

1948-The National FFA Supply Service was started.

1950-FFA receives a Federal Charter, Public Law 740, 81st Congress.

1952-*The National FUTURE FARMER* first published.
-Code of Ethics adopted by delegates to national convention.

1953-FFA celebrates Silver Anniversary.
-A special three-cent stamp honoring FFA issued by Post Office Department.
-President Dwight Eisenhower became first president to speak at the National FFA Convention.

1955-Star Farmer Joe Moore featured on cover of *Time* magazine.

1956-Ground broken for first permanent building at National FFA Center.

1957-Official FFA Calendar first published by *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine.
-Wm. Paul Gray from Colorado named National Executive Secretary.
-R. E. Bass of Virginia, becomes National Treasurer.

1987 National Home and Farmstead Improvement Award

Through Skill and Dedication, FFAer Makes His Farm a Better Place to Live and Work

To some folks, it was just an old, good-for-nothing, chicken house. One expert suggested that the structure should be razed rather than renovated.

But Todd Raines decided the decrepit building wasn't ready for the bulldozer. This FFA member from Seaman, Ohio, repaired the roof, laid bricks, poured a new concrete floor, installed electrical wiring and added a liquid manure tank. Months of hardwork transformed the dilapidated chicken house into an efficient swine farrowing facility.

Todd made this and numerous other improvements on his family's farm, which was originally settled by his great-great-grandfather. The farm is becoming a better place to live and work because of Todd's skill and dedication.

FFA chapter advisors Gary McDowell and Corbett Phipps are not surprised at Todd's accomplishments or at his winning the 1987 Farm and Homestead Improvement Award.

"Todd has the ability to set priorities and stick to them. In this program, he had to do a lot of record keeping and budgeting, as well as the actual project work. He was able to do it all and stay on schedule," Gary says.

During his FFA career, Todd Raines has energetically applied his skill and knowledge toward improvements in the safety, efficiency and beauty of his family's farm.

Corbett points out that Todd's parents, Brenda and Pat, deserve much of the credit for their son's success: "They gave Todd the opportunity to gain experience. For instance, the 30-sow, farrow-to-finish operation is Todd's responsibility. He makes all the buying and selling decisions."

Besides farm work, Todd had other responsibilities during his FFA career. While a student at Ohio Valley Vocational School, he was class president for two years, FFA chapter president and a member of the basketball and baseball teams. He also was a member of the Ohio livestock judging team that placed sixth at the 1987 National FFA Convention. Todd ranked third out of 144 individual contestants.

Todd says the skills and knowledge he acquired through FFA and vocational agriculture will help in the future when he attends Ohio State University to study animal science, and later when he operates a farm.

The Upjohn Company, sponsor of the FFA Farm and Homestead Improvement Award, takes pride in supporting the hard work of FFA members, like Todd, who strive to make the American farm an exceptional place to work and live.

Todd installed, wired and programmed this 10-foot satellite dish. In addition to this project, Todd has constructed nursery pens for his swine operation and completely renovated an old barn.

One of Todd's first projects was painting this tobacco barn. His FFA advisors, Corbett Phipps (left) and Gary McDowell (right), credit Todd's accomplishments to his ability to set priorities and stick to a schedule.

Todd transformed a crumbling old chicken house into a modern, seven-crate farrowing facility. He installed water lines to each automatic waterer and helped wire the electrical system.

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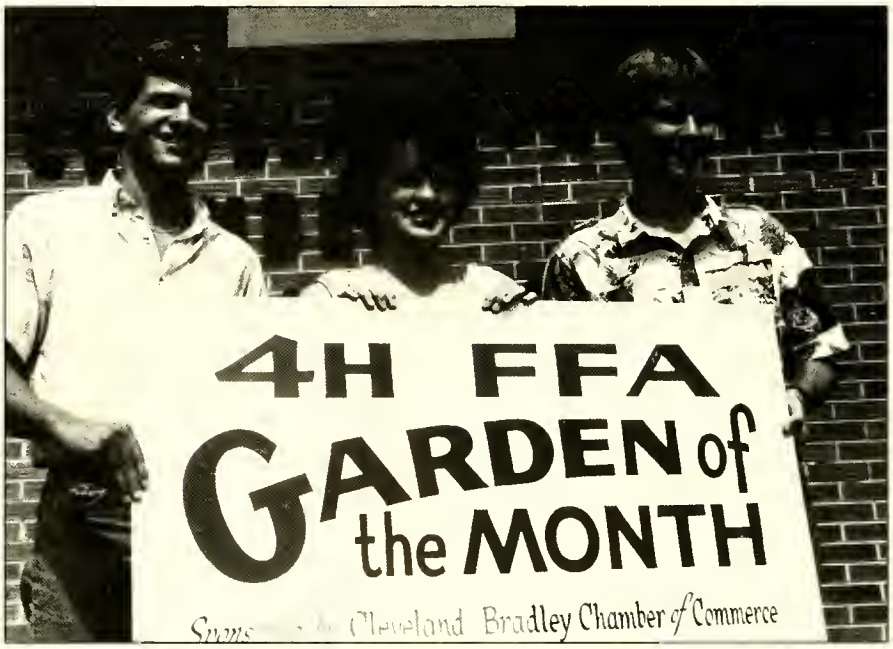
FFA In Action



A Sign of Success

As a part of the BOAC program, the Bradley FFA in Cleveland, Tennessee, initiated a joint project with the local Chamber of Commerce and county 4-H organizations entitled "Garden of the Month." According to the BOAC committee survey, there is an avid interest in gardening locally. Chapter members met with the County Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee to present the ideas and formulate a "game plan" to conduct the contest. The contest was conducted during the months of May, June and July. Chamber of Commerce publicized the project with news releases in the local newspaper and on local radio stations. Citizens entered their nominations for the best garden at local farm supply dealers and 180 different gardens were nominated. Chapter members divided into teams to visit and evaluate the nominations. Monthly winners were recognized by local news media. *(From National Chapter Award application)*

Three-Wheel Safety Experience

Eastern FFA in Ohio cooperated with The Ohio State University and Brown County Extension Service to hold an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) school in Eastern vo-ag deparment.

An in-school survey was conducted by the community service committee to all vo-ag students. The survey asked 11 questions such as, "Do you own an ATV? What is your use for your ATV?"

There were workshops conducted during the school. First, there was a skill demonstration conducted by Tony McNeilan. Tony is an experienced dirt bike operator and showed everyone the correct procedure on how to make turns, take hills without upsetting the bike, etc. He also showed us the correct clothing, pads and helmet to wear while riding the dirt bike.

After the demonstration, Randall Reeder and Tom Carpenter, engineers from the university, spoke about the construction of an ATV, how they are put together and the many parts of an off-road vehicle. They talked about safety procedures while being near an ATV and while operating one and gave numerous statistics about ATVs.

Finally, everyone got to use the skill course to drive their ATVs, being careful not to knock over the cones set up around the course. Brian Ward was awarded a trophy for best rider. *(Philip Cooper, Reporter)*

Halloween Helper

The Genoa, Ohio, Chapter advisor contributed a wagonload of pumpkins to help the elementary children celebrate Halloween.

Members went with Mr. Henline to all the elementary schools to deliver the pumpkins. The chapter has received many thank-you letters from the children. Overall, the pumpkins came as a big surprise to the kids and made them very happy.

The Genoa FFA was glad to be a part of the children's celebration of Halloween. *(Tracy Brown, Reporter)*

Horseman Tribute

Jeff Stout, a member of the Winchester, Virginia, FFA, met the late Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldridge during Jeff's trip to an FFA Washington Leadership Conference. Jeff prepared this tribute for the Secretary so members would know of Mr. Baldridge's support of youth. Mr. Baldridge lost his life in a horse accident.

"When Malcolm 'Mac' Baldridge became Secretary of Commerce, he was eager to continue roping while living in Washington, D.C., and contacted two rodeo acquaintances of mine and started roping with them. That's when we met.

"Mac, giving the same courtesy to everyone, young and old, quickly earned the respect of every roper. His time, patience, skill and caring attitude inspired all the youth he helped.

"I could tell he enjoyed young people by the way he acted, what he said and the way he said it. It was things like showing you what you did wrong and how to improve it, lending you his horse, giving you a rope, or offering to pay your entry fee when you were a few dollars short. All of this he did for me.

"When I attended the Washington Conference Program in July, 1986, I made an appointment to visit him in his office and looked at pictures of where he had gone and people he had met throughout the world.

"Then I told him everything that we had done that week during the Washington Conference. He said, 'I wish I were a Future Farmer. I am a present farmer, but, I wish I were a Future Farmer.'

"When asked why, he replied, 'You can only dwell on the past, you learn from it, but you cannot change it. The future you can dream about, you can live it and you can change it, and with all the changes to be made in agriculture in the near future, I wish I could be a part of that.'"

Jeff Stout, right, met the late Malcolm Baldridge at an FFA Leadership Conference.

Sunday Funday

The Riverdale, Ohio, FFA held its eighth annual parent-member Funday on a Sunday afternoon at the FFA land lab at the high school.

Over 150 parents, members and guests attended the event beginning at 4 p.m. with an official welcome. There was a picnic with games such as the hay-bale toss, potato race and the dreaded egg-toss.

Guests also joined in the celebration of the 25-year anniversary of the Riverdale Chapter.

Following Funday, the new students participated in an overnight orientation program conducted by the officers and alumni. Funday serves not only as an introduction to new students and their parents, but also as a welcome to all members and parents for the coming school year. *(Billie Wilkerson, Reporter)*

"Come On Down"

The Wellington, Ohio, FFA held an invitational dairy and general livestock judging contest at the county fairgrounds for chapters in their area.

The dairy judging consisted of six classes: Holstein cows, a pedigree class, a dairy test, Holstein heifers, Jersey heifers and Ayrshires. It was judged by Jerry Conely, sales manager of a local breeder cooperative. The winning team was Edison. The top individual was Kendra Sallee from Willard.

The general livestock contest had eight classes including feeder calf grading, market lambs, keep cull swine, keep - cull sheep, keep cull beef, market hogs, Simmental heifers and crossbred futurity steers. This contest was judged by Jay Woodworth of the university's livestock judging team. The top team was Bellevue. Tracy Dendinger from Bellevue was top individual.

The chapter appreciated the many supporters who let them borrow animals for the contest. The Wellington FFA Alumni covered the entire cost of the contest with the money raised from an annual sausage sale. *(Pat Knoble, Reporter)*

Patch Work

Joe Durkin of the Crestview-Ashland, Ohio, Chapter of FFA has successfully harvested a bumper crop of muskmelons for the second consecutive year.

Living on a 40-acre farm does not leave much room for specialty crops. After looking into different possibilities, Joe came up with the idea of a vine crop. Nearby on another family-owned property, Joe found an acre of ground that was not being used.

The first year 75 plants were set out. After the success of the first year, Joe increased his plant number to 350.

Huge pieces of plastic obtained from a nearby scrap dealer for little cost helped keep the weeds down and made the project less time consuming.

Joe marketed melons daily from the vines he planted on an extra corner of land.

An average of 50 to 60 melons were picked daily and marketed through friends, his school and a yard stand. This has been a very economical and rewarding experience and Joe is looking forward to the spring when he can get back into the melon patch.

International Ball

Officers and advisors of the Caldwell and Lexington, Texas, FFA Chapters entertained and were entertained by 45 visitors from around the world on a tour of agriculture in Texas.

The visitors were shown our opening ceremonies by the Caldwell chapter and a slide presentation of Caldwell members in action.

Then it was barbeque time.

After the meal, representatives from Sweden, Nigeria and the Netherlands gave presentations on agriculture in their countries.

Closing ceremonies were led by the Lexington chapter.

Then the FFA members set a world record for changing official dress to T-shirts and shorts, for a spirited game of volleyball. FFA members, advisors and guests were divided into two teams and rotated on and out so all could play. We all had a great time even though we never really learned to play with our heads instead of our hands like the guys from Nigeria. *(Dana Higginbotham, Reporter)*

(Continued on Page 46)

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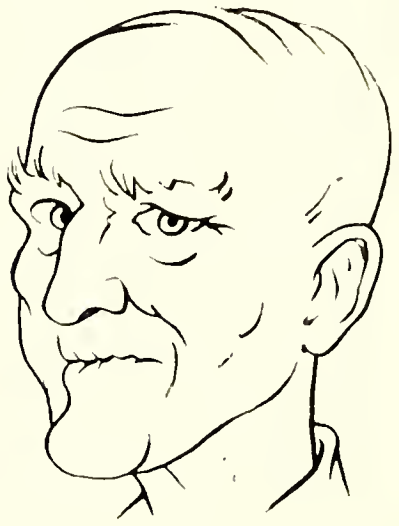

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FFA In Action

Famous Trees

The Prairie Heights, Indiana, FFA school farm is one of 70 locations across the country selected to receive a Famous and Historic Tree Grove to commemorate the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

As part of the American Forestry Association's (AFA) National Big Tree Program, the historic tree groves are perfect centerpieces for a community's "Plant a Living Legacy to the Constitution" projects. The vo-ag and forestry classes completed the application for the historic grove last spring.

The "Country Carvers," a woodcarving club which meets each month at Prairie Heights, was the local sponsor which donated the necessary $150. A combined committee representing school officers, Country Carvers and the FFA selected the best location on the school farm.

The AFA placed historic tree groves in different growing regions to make this program available to as many communities as possible. The seedlings were grown from hundreds of trees connected with our country's birth, development and founding fathers.

Each community location had to meet specific requirements for the nurturing and long-term care of the historic seedlings. The seedlings will be one or two seasons old when shipped, so they will require nursery care for the next few years to ensure development.

Organizers of the Historic Tree Grove to be placed on the school farm received a sycamore seedling, grown from seeds collected during trimming of the trees on Ellis Island for the Statue of Liberty's centennial celebration. Pictured in the front row (left to right) are Ned Stump, school farm director; Mike Benac, president of the FFA; and Greg Gunthorp, FFA vice president. Back row (left to right) includes Bob Slavens, superintendent; Steve Buckles, music teacher (who got the idea to send for the tree); Sam Perkins, ag teacher; Marg Ruhl, president of Country Carvers; Lamar Ruhl, past president of Country Carvers and Walt Watson, vice president of Country Carvers. *Standard-News Photo*

The first 200 applicants for Famous and Historic Tree Groves, which included Prairie Heights, each received a sycamore grown from seeds collected by the Bartlett Tree Expert Company during the trimming of the Ellis Island trees for the Statue of Liberty's Centennial celebration. This first tree gives the communities the opportunity to promote the project and test their procedures for seedling care.

Among the trees which will make up the Famous and Historic Tree Grove are a Black Walnut tree from the River Plantation, one of George Washington's five estates along the Potomac River in Virginia; and a Southern Catalpa from the tree line at the Governor's Palace Green in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, planned by Thomas Jefferson.

Greenhand Spark Plug

In Wisconsin, the state association organizes Greenhand workshops to encourage and introduce FFA programs to freshmen.

The workshops are held at centrally located state universities to lower the cost for the program and also gives exposure to those institutions. The two-day program includes mixers, a guest motivational speaker, sessions on FFA programs, available recreation, dance and ice cream social. Each member receives a T-shirt. Workshops develop a positive and strong image of the FFA.

FFA office, WEA, FFA Ethics, chapter awards, leadership, SOEPs are just some of the sessions organized by each past year's state officer teams.

The 1987 Greenhand workshops were held at Stevens Point and Plattesville campuses on June 15-16 and 17-18 respectively for over 300 participants.

The workshop is conducted by the immediately retired state officer team, the week after the state convention.

Night School

The Carthage, Missouri, Chapter parents' night at the vocational agriculture building included ceremonies to induct 40 freshmen as Greenhands and 40 sophomores as Chapter Farmers.

State Vice President John Martin spoke on opportunities FFA gives its members.

After the degrees were given, parents toured the classrooms and greenhouse which will be used by some freshmen for supervised occupational experience programs. After the meeting was adjourned, refreshments were served and parents looked about the classrooms and talked to the advisors. *(Stephanie Martinsen, Reporter)*

Fishin' For A Meal

The Spencer County, Kentucky, Chapter picnic and fish fry was a big success again this year with early fishermen arriving at 8 a.m. Members fished in a 9-acre lake of a former member, played softball, touch football, volleyball and ate. Families provided food and supplies and the chapter provided drinks. *(From National Chapter Award application)*

Games With Horses

This past August the Indian Creek FFA of Trafalgar, Indiana, was very busy assisting with the equestrian events of the Pan Am Games.

The games were held at the Johnson County Park in the eastern portion of our school district. Our chapter was asked to be in charge of parking cars and operating road blocks to control traffic.

This event provided employment for 25 members for the ten-day event. The members worked 1,326 hours during the games.

From the proceeds, the chapter gave the Hoosier Horse Park $2,500, each member was paid $6 hour and the chapter kept a little for its treasury.

They Came, They Played, They Won, And Got On TV

Ag Olympics was hosted at the county fairgrounds by the Columbia, Missouri, Chapter for several members from the Ashland chapter.

There were five teams participating in a variety of games from the lifesaver pass, hay hauling, post hole digging, to the obstacle course and tug-of-war.

KRCG-TV 13 came and taped some of the live action and put a spot on the news at ten o'clock.

As it turns out, the Ashland chapter team won most of their events and came in first place overall. FFA T-shirts were awarded to the winning team. *(Juli Lacy, Reporter)*

Share Your Toys

The South Shelby, Missouri, FFA sponsored its second annual FFA Toy Show in September in conjunction with Farmers Day.

The show was well attended by many people in the community. There were 18 major exhibitors at the show who came from four different states.

The project is one of several which allows members to expand their public relations skills and enables them to feel more comfortable dealing with people they don't know very well. The chapter contacted local radio and TV. *(Christina Wood, Reporter)*

Show Me Germany

Washington, Missouri, FFA Chapter worked with the Boone-Duden Historical Society to host Deutsch Country Days at Luxenhaus Farm in Marthasville, Missouri. Mr. Bob Hostkeotter and his wife Lois own the farm. Luxenhaus is a duplication of an early German Hill Farm.

Five years ago, a local college organization sponsored a tour of the Hostkoetters' 1820 log home. This was the beginning of Deutsch Country Days. Bob and Lois Hostkoetter saw this event as an educational and fun way to illustrate to visitors how the early German settlers lived.

The purpose of Deutsch Country Days was to demonstrate how early German settlers lived in this area. It was the goal of the Hostkoetters to authentically duplicate the settlers' lives.

FFA members participated in many ways. Some of the FFA members demonstrated the making of corn husk dolls which were sold during the event. Other members demonstrated the use of old farm equipment and how it was used to accomplish the early settlers' daily farm chores. Rail splitting and rope making craftsmen were assisted by still other FFA members.

However, the majority of the FFA members assisted by directing traffic, parking cars and serving as tour guides. Tour guides were stationed throughout the grounds and rode the trams which transported guests. The guides on the trams greeted the guests as they arrived and thanked them for coming as they left.

Duetsch Country Days is a non-profit event. All proceeds will be divided between the Washington FFA Chapter and the Boone-Duden Historical Society. Washington FFA intends to put its share of the money into a fund to build a greenhouse. *(Doris Brinkmann, Reporter)*

(Continued on Page 48)

FFA members demonstrated the daily farm chores of the early German settlers. Shucking ear corn, grinding corn into meal and cleaning grain were among the demonstrations. The members wore costumes close to those of the early German settlers. Since most FFA members have a pair of black dress pants and a white shirt, the rest was easy—a pair of suspenders and a black derby. Old hand-powered equipment was restored to do the farm chore demonstrations.

Other FFA members demonstrated the art of corn shuck doll making. This drew much attention from the spectators. The process was simple, but tedious and very hard on the hands. The FFA members sold the dolls to the spectators.

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FFA In Action

Another Breakfast Story

In years past, the Spotswood, Virginia, Chapter has held a faculty tea after school during National FFA Week. We decided to try a continental breakfast for the faculty and staff before school and make it possible for more to attend.

The executive committee appointed a committee to plan the breakfast and prepare the invitations to send out to the faculty and staff. The menu was fresh fruit platter and donuts with orange juice and coffee. The invitations were produced using the computer in ag class.

The day before the breakfast, ag classes helped clean up the classrooms where the breakfast was to be held.

The breakfast was a big success. There were many faculty present for the breakfast; and for the departments like cafeteria and custodial that couldn't attend, we made up a fruit platter and sent it to their places of work.

Other activities for FFA Week consisted of attending a church service in official dress, wearing the FFA jacket during the week and wearing a shirt or pin to promote agriculture. *(Renee Hoover, Reporter)*

Slaughter House to Sales Force

The Genoa, Ohio, FFA holds an annual sausage sale day. With the help of many parents, vo-ag students and volunteers, the sale is always a success.

Total sales included selling 1,175 pounds of linked sausage, 945 pounds of bulk sausage and 44 sides of ribs all from a total of 22 hogs.

Working from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the hard working group cut, ground and packed the pork sausage.

The hogs were supplied by Burnside Livestock, Pemberville, the equipment for grinding and weighing was supplied by Ohio Butcher Supply, Millbury, and Tank's Meat, Elmore.

The profit from the FFA's largest sausage sale ever will be going toward the FFA banquet, classroom supplies, camp scholarships and other materials needed by the FFA.

Pulling Publicity

The Rye Cove, Virginia, Chapter had the prize-winning float in both the Dutfield Daze and Scott County Tobacco Festival parades. Note the smiling cow wearing a blanket sign "This is no bull." Chapter officers "milked" the cow and sometimes fed the two cats on board. *(Freda Russell, Reporter)*

Fightin' Fires

The Marlow, Oklahoma, community fire truck is maintained by the Central FFA Chapter. The high school and the community are one-in-the-same since the school's ten miles from any town. Each member is taught how to operate the truck and pump, and to fight grass and house fires. FFA members built the fire truck six years ago as a BOAC project and have been responsible for its maintenance, repair and upkeep. *(From National Chapter Award application)*

My Turn

with

Kelli Evans

HELLO FFA members! It is my pleasure to be part of this first national officer column. In each issue of the magazine this year, a different national officer will have the opportunity to speak to you.

We may discuss topics ranging from an important issue facing our organization to our national officer travels throughout the states to general, personal thoughts about growing up. It is our chance as national officers to have at least one opportunity to write a personal letter about our thoughts and feelings to all FFA members. We encourage you to respond to the columns by sending your thoughts to the magazine where your letter may be featured in Mailbag.

It's very difficult for me to fill you in on the national officer activities when we are really just beginning. Following the excitement of National FFA Convention, I returned to college to finish my semester final exams early. Although becoming an officer was a new beginning in one chapter of my life's book, it was also a temporary end to activities with college friends and family.

"As the six of us walked into the Oval Office, I felt humbled by actually shaking hands with one of the most powerful men in the world."

And then it happened . . . "the Firsts."

Our team met for two weeks at the National FFA Center for orientation and training in early December. It was then that I experienced many "first times" . . . flying in a jet, touring Washington, D.C., leaving the Midwest, seeing the National FFA Center and staff, and going to the White House to greet the President.

I seriously could not believe that my first trip to our nation's capital would produce a casual meeting with the President of the United States. As the six of us walked into the Oval Office, I felt humbled by actually shaking hands with one of the most powerful men in the world. I was speechless and could hardly say "hello" as I discovered that Mr. Reagan was just like my image of a grandfather. He was gentle, courteous and sincere, but above all, provided a model of leadership which we all respect.

What could we, as representatives of youth in agriculture, say to an individual who has dedicated eight years of his life to the cause of providing leadership for our country?

"As our agriculture industry experiences changes, the FFA organization needs to step up, embrace the challenge, rediscover our strengths and realize we can make a difference."

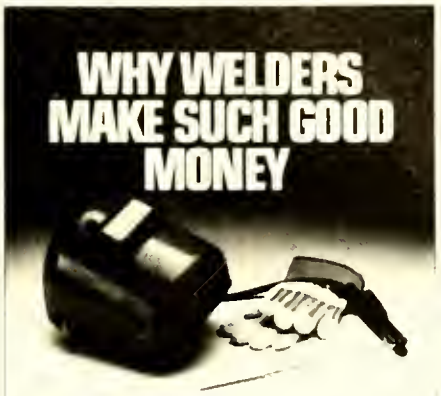
The message we delivered was, "Mr. President, you personally display qualities which our organization continually strives to instill in its members . . . your gentle nature, patriotic views, belief in American youth, but above all, your deep commitment to your God, to mankind and to our country. Thank you for doing everything you can to ensure that we, as young people, can enjoy the freedoms this country was built upon."

As officers and fellow FFA members, we hope to share that "special" kind of leadership with you this year. We are eagerly looking forward to our international tour of Japan to study another culture and a different type of agriculture.

Upon returning, I sincerely look forward to traveling and enjoying the different people and lifestyles here in America.

As our agriculture industry experiences changes, the FFA organization needs to step up, embrace the challenge, rediscover our strengths and realize we can make a difference.

Best wishes, my friends, as we start the celebration of 61 years of an outstanding organization! •••



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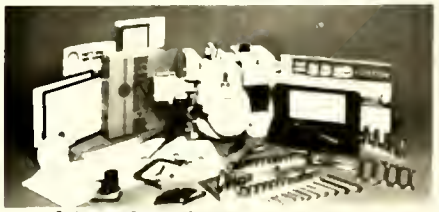

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Joke Page

Three dogs, two French poodles and a mixed breed, met on a street corner.

"My name is Fifi," woofed the first poodle. *"F-I-F-I."*

"My name is Mimi," barked the second poodle. *"M-I-M-I."*

They turned to the mixed breed and asked, in a snorty way, *"What is yours?"*

"Fido," he woofed, *"P-H-Y-D-E-A-U-X."*

Scott McLerran
Cameron, Texas

Q: Where is a monster's favorite place to swim?

A: Lake Erie.

Tony Pratts
Hammonton, New Jersey

"Just take a little off the hair on my chinny-chin-chin."

Q: If you were in a barn and there was a mad lion on one side and a mad bull on the other side, and you had one shell in your gun, which one would you shoot?

A: The lion, because you can shoot the bull anytime.

James Swink
Neodesha, Kansas

Pug: *"What do you get a person who has everything?"*

Don: *"I don't know, what?"*

Pug: *"A burglar alarm."*

John Ramirez
Lyford, Texas

"Why can't Cinderella play baseball?" the man asked.

"I don't know, why?" said his friend.

"Because she ran away from the ball," the man answered.

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

After paying his traffic violation fine and receiving his receipt, the motorist snapped, *"What do I do with this?"*

"When you get four of them, you get a bicycle."

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Two convicts were chatting in their cell following the brief visit that morning by the governor of the state.

"I accidently bumped into him as we were walking into the mess hall," the first convict said. *"I said 'Pardon me, Governor,' and the governor said, 'Certainly.'"*

"You should have got it in writing," his cellmate said.

Darin Miller
Elgin Oregon

Q: What do you get when you cross a Charolais and a Brown Swiss?

A: Charlie Brown.

Tracey Bryant
Booneville, Arkansas

Newspaper advertisement: *"Piano Moving. Expert handling. Also, kindling wood for sale."*

Jason Glass
Union Grove, Alabama

Did you hear about the man that went elephant hunting in Africa? He had a hernia setting out decoys.

Denny Tompkins
Brownsboro, Texas

A man sitting on a park bench after being kicked out of the house said to the man next to him, *"Well, the wife was cleaning the house and she decided to throw out everything that didn't work."*

Jeff Sudbeck
Pawnee City, Nebraska

Sitting in a rowboat, the fisherman asked his companion, *"Got any more of those little plastic floats?"*

"Why?" replied his companion.

"This one keeps sinking!"

Markis Snodgrass
Pritchett, Colorado

Charlie, the Greenhand

"You never did tell me where the horse kicked you, Charlie."

NOTICE: The National FUTURE FARMER *will pay $5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, or via Stargram on the Ag Ed Network to FF100A. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.*

Sometimes the footsteps seem too big to ever fill.

It can be pretty overwhelming. That feeling of wondering if you'll ever measure up.

Believing in yourself

To become good at anything, you have to try. And you have to believe in yourself. Once you do this, anything is possible.

Helping you stand tall

For years, people at Pioneer have encouraged the future farmers of tomorrow — yes, one of them may have been your Dad — to grow and to stand tall with hybrids and varieties that were a step ahead of the rest.

And that won't change. Because today we're as committed to developing breakthrough products as we were when your Dad was a boy.

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